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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the idea of hosting some of the Japan tsunami and earthquake victims here in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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18th Birthday
After 18 solid years, McDonald's Saipan continues to evolve.

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Stricken Reactor
Japanese military helicopters dump loads of seawater onto a stricken nuclear reactor.

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What do you get the couple who has everything?

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Flies in the ointment

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

SPECIAL REPORT

Editor's Note: This story forms part of a series that Saipan Tribune *will feature this week, examining the Commonwealth's tourism industry, focusing on the dire state of arrivals, particularly from its main market of Japan, and the steps that could be taken to reverse the trend.*

With its spectacular location in the western Pacific, the CNMI boasts of breathtaking views and scenic sites and a rich, colorful history. Tourists who come to island flock to the Last Command Post, Suicide Cliff, and Managaha Island, among other sites, for the ultimate Saipan experience.

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AMID JAPAN NUCLEAR FEARS

Islands remain a 'safe zone'

» EPA radiation monitor on its way to CNMI
» Tighter checks of flights, food items from Japan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A radiation monitor from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is on its way to the CNMI in two to three days in response to the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan where emergency workers try to cool overheated nuclear power reactors damaged by Friday's 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami.

CNMI-bound flights from Japan and consumer items such as food products from the country will also undergo tighter monitoring for radia-

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NUKE TALKS

■ As the Pacific grows increasingly worried about nuclear accidents, columnist Ed Stephens Jr. offers seven facts about nuclear risks in today's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

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■ Dr. Gary Ramsey explains how potassium iodide is used to protect people from radiation exposure: What it does, what it can't do, how it works, who should take it, and other questions you may have.

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US SENATE HEARING
Nominees for the federal bench are sworn in at the beginning of a hearing yesterday before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary. From left, J. Paul Oetken, nominee for the Southern District of New York; Paul A. Englemayer, nominee for the Southern District of New York; and Ramona V. Manglona, nominee for the Northern Mariana Islands. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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State of emergency at Rota Health Center

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy Inos declared Wednesday a state of emergency at the Rota Health Center due to the government's failure to pay nurses who continue to work despite their salaries being delayed by four pay periods.

The emergency declaration, which is effective

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Local

'Fitial should deliver SOCA before he submits budget'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) called on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to deliver his State of the Commonwealth Address on or before he submits his fiscal year 2012 budget to be able to directly communicate to lawmakers and the public why he's submitting a budget package of below $120 million.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, said the government's declining resources and a lack of major revenue generating measures require drastic action.

He said the government may have to lay off as many as 1,000 government employees, because a 16-hour work cut per payroll will not be enough in 2012.

"Let the senators from Rota and Tinian be responsible for the laying off of these people. They don't want casinos on Saipan but they do not have anything to offer to generate additional revenue for the CNMI. Saipan is subsidizing Rota and Tinian," he said.

The Senate rejected Tenorio's Saipan casino bill last year. The House Ways and Means Committee is now working on passing a new Saipan casino bill or a Saipan casino initiative.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) also supports Tenorio's call for the governor's SOCA during the budget process.

"The situation calls for a SOCA," Benavente said, referring to the decreasing revenue, the payless paydays, medical referral funding needs, as well as the Japan quake and tsunami's impact on the CNMI economy.

A joint legislative resolution calling for a joint House and Senate session to accept the governor's SOCA has yet to be filed.

The last time the governor delivered a SOCA was in 2009. Fitial did not deliver a SOCA in 2010 as the Legislature didn't hold a joint session to accept his address.

However, Fitial issued a written state of the Commonwealth report toward the end of 2010 to comply with a constitutional requirement.

Should the Legislature call for a SOCA this year, press secretary Angel Demapan said "the administration will respond to it accordingly."

"Since there was no official call for a SOCA last year, the governor fulfilled his constitutional mandate to submit a report on the affairs of the Commonwealth at the end of 2010," he said.

40 win prizes in IP&E promo

IP&E's Fuel, Fly, Phone and Win promotion was a resounding success, with about 45,000 coupons submitted during the three-month promo period.

"The promo proved successful…as I believe we provided a very compelling prize offering [that] appealed to everyone," IP&E CNMI area manager Jeff Boyer told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under the promo, customers who made any cash purchase of Shell gasoline or those who redeemed their completed Lucky 7 Passport between Dec. 9, 2010, to March 9, 2011, were given entry forms. The names of 40 lucky Shell customers were drawn at the IP&E office on March 10.

Winners include Paul Roberto who won a ton of Shell V-Power premium gasoline; J.P. Kim, 100,000 Delta Sky Miles; Marcy Santos, Droid X Phone; and Ursula Galvan, Blackberry Pearl Phone.

Other prizes were MiFi wireless Internet for a year, prepaid cards, free local text messages for postpaid accounts for one year, and unlimited cell phone airtime for one year.

Boyer said the list of all winners will be published in advertisements and is available in all Shell stations on island.

He congratulated all winners and thanked their loyal customers and co-sponsors for the promotion, especially IT&E and Delta Air Lines.

"We hope that we have been able to bring some level of happiness to consumers despite the many challenges we face locally," said Boyer, adding that IP&E will continue to explore other promotional opportunities this year.

For inquiries on how to claim prize, call IP&E Office at 323-3847. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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Kilili: US senators introduce submerged lands bill

WASHINGTON, DC—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said yesterday that a companion to his submerged lands bill had been introduced in the U.S. Senate.

Bingaman

Murkowski

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) co-sponsored the bill conveying submerged lands to the CNMI at Sablan's request. The two senators are chairman and ranking member, respectively, of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over insular affairs.

"Having a companion bill in the Senate may get us to passage more quickly," Sablan said. "I very much appreciate that Sen. Bingaman and Sen. Murkowski agreed to help out in this way."

In the last Congress Sablan's submerged lands bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 416-0. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee recommended it for passage by the Senate. But, along with other lands bills, Sablan's legislation was blocked.

A late attempt to win passage by including the submerged lands conveyance in a basket of lands bills that Senate President Harry Reid proposed, ran out of time in the final days of the 111th Congress.

Sablan re-introduced his submerged lands bill in the 112th Congress as H.R. 670. The new companion bill introduced by Bingaman and Murkowski in the Senate is S. 590. ***(PR)***

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SAFE ZONE

From Page 1

tion risks as soon as the local government finalizes its plan on how to go about this, given its limited resources.

The increased surveillance is taken as precautionary measures only, and not because of imminent danger.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the six-member CNMI Nuclear Task Force said yesterday that the CNMI remains a "safe zone" at this time.

"I repeat, the information we received indicates that there's no immediate threat to the islands of the Commonwealth and this has been confirmed with federal authorities," Inos said in a news conference in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

Inos reiterated that there's no need to panic, and that the CNMI government is doing the best it can to monitor the developments in Japan, and to be in constant communication with federal authorities over the Japan nuclear crisis.

CNMI Nuclear Task Force chair Marvin Seman and member Frank Rabauliman said EPA Region 9 is sending a radiation monitor to the CNMI.

Rabauliman, who is the director of the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, said an EPA expert who is now in Guam will set up the device on Saipan.

"It will monitor air particulates for radiation," Rabauliman said at the news briefing.

The DEQ director said the machine is part of EPA's RadNet, a national network of monitoring stations that is also used to track environmental releases of radioactivity from nuclear weapons tests and nuclear accidents, among other things.

Rabauliman said setting up the radiation monitoring device in the CNMI, just like in Guam, Hawaii, and other Pacific area, "doesn't necessarily mean there's imminent danger" from the Japan nuclear crisis.

"This is just precautionary measure," he added.

Once set up, the radiation monitor will send real time data via satellite to EPA officials, who will make the data available to the public online.

Other CNMI Nuclear Task Force members were also at the news briefing: press secretary Angel Demapan, Emergency Management Office director Jack Omar, Criminal Justice Planning Agency executive director Jerome Ierome, and public health and hospital preparedness director Warren Villagomez of the Department of Public Health.

Food products monitoring

Inos and the task force said they also called up the Division of Customs Services and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to brief them on the needed increased surveillance of products coming from Japan, especially food products, as well as aircraft and sea vessels from Japan.

They reiterated that these are precautionary measures.

Given that many food products from Japan are shipped to the CNMI, Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said the islands really need to have a radiation monitoring device.

"There are many items that are made or processed in Japan coming here, including fresh vegetables, seafood. They are shipped in almost daily. This is especially needed if food items, vegetables, fruits, and seafood are from within 50 miles of the area," he said.

Monitoring radioactive releases

Task force members participated in a conference call with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and representatives of Region IX agencies with jurisdiction on Pacific island countries and U.S. territories.

Inos said that, while there is increased activity on the ground in Japan arising from an explosion from power plant reactor No. 4, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission continues to work with other agencies to monitor radioactive releases and predict their path.

"All the available information continues to indicate that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, Alaska, the rest of U.S. territories, and the U.S. West Coast are not expected to experience any harmful levels of radioactivity. In view of the most current correspondences, the public is being assured that the Northern Mariana Islands and the territories remain classified as safe zones at this time," Inos said in a statement he read.

Seman, the task force chairman, said even if the wind blows south in the direction of the CNMI, this doesn't necessarily mean the islands will have a fallout of radioactive materials.

There's some 1,500 miles to 1,700 miles distance between the CNMI and Japan's Fukushima area where the damaged nuclear reactors are.

Demapan reiterated that when situation changes, the task force will immediately send out public notices.

Public health matters

The CNMI Department of Public Health is also advising the public against ingesting potassium iodide as a precaution.

It said ingesting iodide when there is no contamination is not an effective precautionary measure.

"If the need should arise for residents to start taking potassium iodide to guard against the effects of radiation exposure, the Department of Public Health, along with other local and federal agencies, will inform the public. We do not anticipate this need," the task force said.

At this time, the public is encouraged to consult reliable sources for up-to-date information.

Updated information is available at the CNMI Office of the Governor's website at http://gov.mp.

EMERGENCY

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for 30 days, allows the Fitial administration to tap available funding sources to pay for these nurses' salaries.

"The CNMI faces an imminent threat of the disruption of critical medical services on the island of Rota due to the termination of services from the existing nursing services provider. The disruption of the provision of nursing services on the island of Rota poses a direct threat to the health and safety of the people," said Inos in his declaration.

The declaration gives the central government the authority to suspend all statutory or regulatory provisions and allows the reprogramming of funds necessary to meet the emergency.

Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Juan Ayuyu said yesterday that five of the eight nurses working at the Rota Health Center have not been getting paid for more than four pay periods. He estimates the outstanding obligation at over $100,000.

The five nurses are employed through Saipan Employment Agency and Services; the other three are direct hires.

Ayuyu said the delegation asked Inos for the emergency declaration so it could rectify the problem. "We requested this emergency declaration to ensure that Rota Health Center will continue to operate. We have obligation to fulfill to these nurses and we're very thankful that they continue to serve our people despite not getting paid on time," said Ayuyu.

He said the delegation has already asked the administration to reprogram at least $50,000 from the Rota solid waste revolving funds. For the rest of the money owed these nurses, he said the delegation has instructed Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola to look into other funding sources such as savings from unfilled positions at the municipality.

This isn't the first time these nurses have experienced delays in their salaries. Last year, some Rota nurses were not able to report for work for weeks due to such delays.

FLIES

From Page 1

More often than not, however, those spectacular views also come with illegally dumped trash, a trail of road kill from one end of the island to the other, brazen thieves that strike in broad daylight, abandoned buildings that have become homes to vermin, and packs of unleashed dogs that chase and bite tourists and residents alike.

For an economy that is down to its last remaining industry, the CNMI doesn't seem to feel any urgency about the maintenance and upkeep of the reasons why visitors flock to the islands. Yet maintaining its tourist sites is critical for the CNMI to continue being a destination frequented by visitors.

"Everybody is relying on [tourism] and we need that," said Division of Parks & Recreation director Anthony Benavente.

Martin Duenas, Marianas Visitors Authority Public Relation & Community Programs manager, noted that Saipan's scenic and historical sites narrate compelling stories that can interest more visitors for the island. "We are seeing a need to… focus on the very little we have for product development," he said.

Reduced working hours

According to Benavente, Parks & Recreation is responsible for more than 150 hectares of parks and sites in five different areas on island. Maintaining these sites, he said, is not easy but the government's reduced working hours have further complicated their capacity to do their jobs.

Before the austerity measure took effect, Benavente said their crew takes about a month to cover all bases, from Grotto and Suicide Cliff in Marpi to Obyan and Ladder Beaches in the southern district.

"It's hard right now in terms of catching up because it's taking too long," said Benavente.

There are instances, he said, that their attention would be called to take care of the road islands or medians in Garapan. But they can't just leave other sites because in that way, they won't be able to finish all recreational and tourist sites along their route.

Their job is a lot harder during the rainy season since the grass has already grown by the time they return to the next area, Benavente said. "When we're delayed, the only thing I concentrate on are the most visible sites," he said, referring to Marpi and Garapan.

'Different kind of trash'

He disclosed that when the crew does general cleanup and trash collection on Mondays, instead of getting just regular trash from tourists or picnickers, they frequently find household garbage being dumped in public trash bins.

"I just hope they stop doing this. The more they do it, it delays our other work. At the same time, it's just an eyesore because it overbuilds the trash," he emphasized.

What's worse, said Benavente, is when stray dogs yank the unattended trash and scatter them. That and the fact that littering is still prevalent on island are two reasons why there is a need to enforce the anti-littering control program.

Anti-littering law

Toxic Waste Management Branch manager David Chargualaf, who also serves as the anti-littering control program manager, said that no citations have been issued "in the last two years" due to the $200 penalty fee, which many apprehending officers find excessive given the current economic situation on island.

"There is ongoing conversation about the issue of fines," said Chargualaf, adding that the DEQ director has been communicating with the Legislature to look into amending the law, lowering down the minimum fine to $25 for first-time offenders and including dumping trash in public receptacles as a form of littering.

Road kills

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores acknowledges that his office is responsible for dealing with road kill. "My office is in charge of road kills. If I see any dead animals on the road, I stop and deal with it or call our staff," he said.

Flores said they try to accommodate all calls they get about road kills, given their limited personnel who also have other tasks to perform.

In 2010, records at the Mayor's Office show that 163 cats and 161 dogs were pulled out of Saipan's thoroughfares.

He disclosed that the animal tagging program, part of the island's stray animal shelter program, is slated to begin in May to help address road kill concerns.

Lack of funding

Almost seven years since Parks & Recreation got the job of maintaining tourist sites, Benavente said yearly budget continues to dwindle. Currently, they have an annual budget of "a little bit over $50,000" to cover operation costs like utilities, fuel supply, and equipment maintenance. "Our money is basically gone," he added.

With skyrocketing oil prices and constant upkeep of equipment that are worn out from everyday use, Benavente noted that it will be tough to keep up with all their expenditures given the meager budget. "No, [it's not enough]. But what can we do? We have to use it wisely and work within our means," he said.

Benavente, who has been with Parks & Recreation for about two decades, said that regulations such as charging a minimal user's fee could be used to fund the maintenance of these sites.

Enhancements

As for repair or enhancement of structures, it has to wait—for now.

"It's all a matter of funding. It prevents us from quickly developing these concerned sites," MVA's Duenas said.

He said even the destination enhancement committee, which was active for about four years and accomplished several projects including the enhancement of Saipan airport, had to lie low due to lack of funds.

"They can come up with as many plans as they can but at the end of the day, there's no money to implement those plans. That basically defeats the whole purpose of this committee," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"There is without a doubt a need to reinvest in our travel product on all three islands," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Unfortunately local resources are scarce but we are looking at the possibility of further tapping federal grants."

According to Tenorio, MVA was able to accomplish the rehabilitation of the Susupe baseball field and the Grotto bathroom thanks to federal grants.

Duenas also noted the reinforcement of partnerships with the private sector, which has become instrumental in product development efforts like the Bird Island railing project, courtesy of the Tournament of Champions beautification fund.

Even Mt. Tapochau, Saipan's highest peak, also needs enhancement. "[W]herever tourists goes, we want to try and make sure that those areas are kept up and ready to welcome our guests," he said.

At present, Duenas said MVA also acts as a liaison and coordinates private entities that want to be part of development and enhancement efforts for the island's tourist attractions.

Community support

With the local government's budget shortfall each year, Benavente highlighted the need for the community to come together and do its share in maintaining tourist sites and recreation areas.

"I'm just hopeful that they would understand and help us try to properly maintain and do what's right to clean the area whenever they're there at sites, picnics, facilities, any area of the island. If they can only help properly cleaning it and securing it… Most of the time, we need the public's help," he said.

Chargualaf agrees. "It's very important that we show the tourists that our island is clean. I encourage people out there not to litter, not to leave their trash behind."

Duenas said they continue to conduct awareness campaigns on the importance of tourism in the CNMI and what the community can do to support the efforts of government agencies like MVA and other related industry members, getting the message across through programs such as My WAVE.

Benavente lauded efforts of volunteers such as the Beautify CNMI and PDM Promoters that help maintain the island's beauty.

The Parks & Recreation director said it would take the entire community to make things happen and urged the public to "put that extra help to beautify the island. "The more they help us out, the better it is for everybody."

A prayer vigil for Japan on Sunday

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed urged people yesterday to participate in a prayer vigil this Sunday that will express the islands' condolences and sympathy with Japan.

The prayer vigil, which will be held March 20 at the American Memorial Park at 6pm, will coincide with a donation drive that will be coordinated with the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

Syed stressed that he is organizing the event not as president of the United Workers Movement-NMI but in his personal capacity.

"The Japanese people have a hard time now. They are still suffering," said Syed, referring to last Friday's killer 8.9 earthquake and the ensuing tsunami and nuclear plant crisis.

He pointed out that Japan, the premier tourist market of the CNMI, plays a very important role in the Commonwealth's economy.

"For the CNMI people they are very close neighbor," he added.

Syed said the Commonwealth has established close relationships with the people of Japan through cultural exchange program, their continued patronage of the tourism industry, and their investment and businesses on the islands.

"The recent disaster that struck Japan…caused the world to weep, to grieve, and mourn," he said. "We are urging everybody to join our prayers for those lost loved ones, those affected by the tragedy, and those who remain unaccounted as the search and rescue teams continue their work. We are also urging the community to come up with donations."

For more information about the vigil, call Syed at 888-4025 or park ranger Nancy Kelchner at 234-7207 Ext. 2020. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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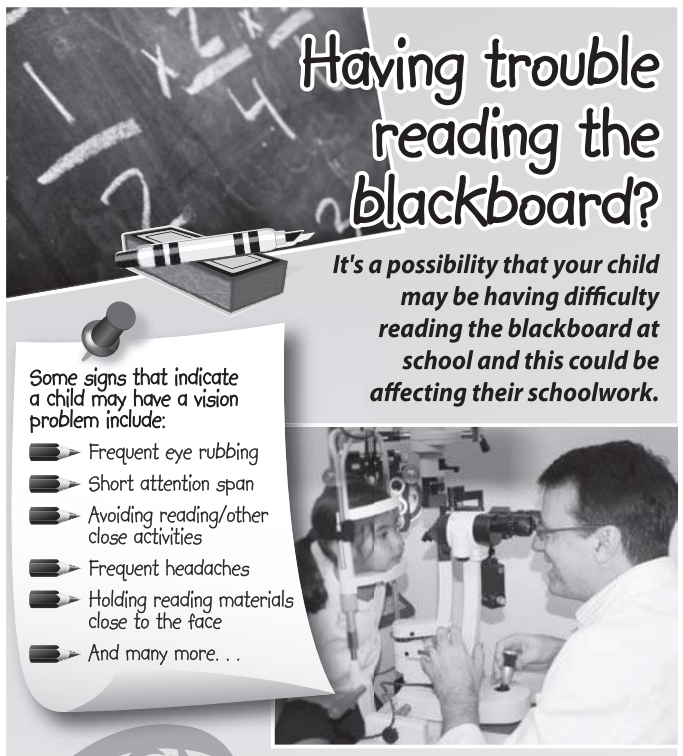
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No intense grilling for Judge Manglona at Senate hearing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Senate Committee on Judiciary spared CNMI Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona from intense grilling at a hearing on her nomination to serve as U.S. District Court judge for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Manglona instead received congratulatory remarks from committee members, including chairman Chuck Schumer (D-NY) after Wednesday's hearing in Washington, D.C.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced Manglona at the hearing.

He spoke of Manglona dedication to public service, including becoming the first women confirmed as CNMI attorney general, the first woman to be confirmed to the CNMI local court and now the first—man or woman—from the CNMI to be nominated to the federal district court.

"I recommend Judge Manglona to you not only as a person of talent and drive, not only as a trailblazing woman. Most importantly, she is someone of integrity and impeccable character, who will serve with distinction as judge on the U.S. District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan told the committee.

Four CNMI senators currently in the nation's capital were also on hand to show support to Manglona at the hearing.

President Barack Obama nominated Manglona in January. Her nomination needs the consent of the U.S. Senate.

Both Sablan and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expressed optimism that Manglona will get full U.S. Senate confirmation.

"The administration is very much pleased that the Committee on Judiciary opted to fast-track the nomination process of Judge Manglona to fill the vacancy on the bench for the U.S. District Court for the NMI," the governor's press secretary, Angel Demapan. "We are confident that she will serve the people of the Commonwealth with the highest standards and decorum."

Fitial recommended Manglona to Obama last year.

830 new laptops eyed for incoming seventh graders

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After giving away brand new laptops to junior and high school students this school year, the Public School System is now planning to buy 830 more for incoming seventh graders next school year.

In a special board meeting yesterday, PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said the proposal has been approved at the fiscal and personnel affairs committee level.

Thornburgh said that over 800 sixth graders are expected to enter junior high next school year.

He said PSS will reprogram some funding from its consolidated grant to buy the new laptops.

PSS has already distributed over 6,000 brand new laptops to its students this school year. The units were bought using the state fiscal stabilization fund.

The funds, a one-time grant under the federal government's stimulus program, are scheduled to expire in September this year.

Thornburgh reported that PSS has been monitoring the spending of its ARRA money and assured that all ARRA projects and funds will be spent before they expire.

Besides laptops, public school students may also get e-books as planned by the system and the board.

The One-Laptop-Per-Child project covers junior to high school students, with students bringing the laptops with them to their next grade level. Senior students will own the laptops after their graduation.

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New LED street lights brighten up NMI roads

The CNMI's roads just got brighter, thanks to a project being funded through stimulus funds provided under the State Energy Program of the U.S. Department of Energy.

The project will replace existing street lamps on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with Light Emitting Diode, or LED, lamps. A total of 1,225 LED lamps will be installed with 919 lamps going to the island of Saipan, 68 to Tinian, and 238 to Rota. The initial shipment of 995 LED lamps arrived on Saipan on March 9, while the remaining LED lamps are slated to arrive on March 18.

The project has been segmented into five phases that will cover the following roads: Beach Road, Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan Road, Koblerville Road, Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Isla Drive, Kagman Road, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Dandan Road, Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road, and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road.

Installation on Saipan began on March 10 on Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road and will continue from the south end of the island working north until project completion.

Installation also began on the island of Tinian on March 15; Rota will begin installation on March 28.

"Our office is very pleased to see this project get underway," said CNMI ARRA IT/communications manager Fred Camacho. "We have worked tirelessly in collaboration with the Department of Public Works' Energy Division, the CNMI Executive Branch, and our project manager, RR Group, to get this project off the ground. We look forward to having all of the CNMI enjoy brighter safer roads."

The new LED lamps are more energy-efficient and have a longer life span that will require less labor to maintain and will keep operating costs down. The new lamps are also much brighter than the previous ones, increasing visibility for CNMI drivers and lessening the chance for accidents.

"Our office wishes to thank all of the agencies involved in getting this project off the ground. We all put in a lot of hard work and it is very gratifying to see that the hard work will pay off and that the CNMI can now reap the benefits of these new LED lamps," said Division of Energy director Thelma Inos. ***(Office of the Governor)***

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Man gets 145-day sentence for 'ice'

A man convicted of possessing crystal methamphetamine or "ice" in 2009 was sentenced to 145 days in prison term.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman sentenced Ruidong Yang to two years in prison, all suspended except for 145 days, with credit for the 145 days he had already served in jail. This means Yang immediately goes free.

He was placed on probation and required to perform 100 hours of community service. He was also ordered to pay a $100 fine, $100 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Yang with three counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, and three counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Yang pleaded guilty to a count of illegal possession of a controlled substance as part of a plea bargain. The remaining charges were dismissed.

Yang was found in possession of the illegal drug on Oct. 21, 2009, on Saipan during a sting operation conducted by the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division's Narcotics Unit.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that the unit had receiving information that Yang was a supplier of "ice."

Castro said their "cooperating source" managed to buy $100 and $50 worth of "ice" from Yang in separate incidents in October 2009 in San Antonio. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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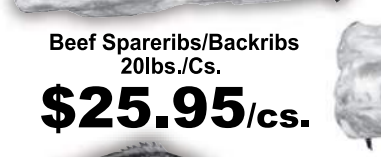

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EDITORIAL

Japan's crucible

In every natural disaster, there is an arc to the story, the narrative. Earthquakes open with surprise. Scientists can't predict them with the precision of hurricanes, can't track them on radar, can't provide much if any warning. Buildings—rooms—start to sway sickeningly, dishes crash. That's how you know.

Tsunamis are more predictable. There's warning, as there was in Japan last week. Residents in the city of Sendai had eight to 10 minutes to scramble to higher ground.

Then water converges with two properties that bring maximum devastation: speed and weight. Waves slam at up to 500 mph, the cruising speed of a jetliner. A cubic foot of seawater weighs 64 pounds. What that math means on the ground in an island nation with 18,000 miles of coastline: people, villages, every human structure, gone.

Astonishing figure: Some 2,000 bodies have washed ashore. More are expected.

Another astonishing number: Perhaps 10,000 people—more than half the population—are missing from Minamisanriku, a northern coastal town.

Then there are those photos of devastated villages such as Saito—no, not a village anymore, just a mud patch with shards of furniture, toys and other detritus churned aside by the tsunami. On Thursday, a thriving place with 250 people and 70 homes. On Friday, desolation.

In Japan's narrative, the denouement is elusive. This disaster story keeps building, growing worse, because of the third element: nuclear suspense.

We've all seen the movies, and know the terrifying "China Syndrome" scenario. A crippled nuclear plant, the possibility of a core meltdown that releases massive radiation into the air and water. Will this become that? We don't know. We see ashen-faced utility execs, telling conflicting stories about the Fukushima reactors. We watch heroic plant workers who may be exposed to large amounts of radiation in a small amount of time, attempting to douse the dangers.

Then there's Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan, in epic understatement, pronouncing the situation "worrisome." His task: Keep the disaster from submerging the world's third-largest economy.

No part of this nation, this world, is spared the prospect of a natural event that becomes a megadisaster. When they occur, fear spreads fast and far. That's the truth. Things happen that aren't—can't be?—predicted. Every failsafe can fail.

Exactly: Imagination falters. Anxiety fills the void. We watch, heartbroken. We send help. We await the next chapter.

And we hope for a swift end to the story's arc.

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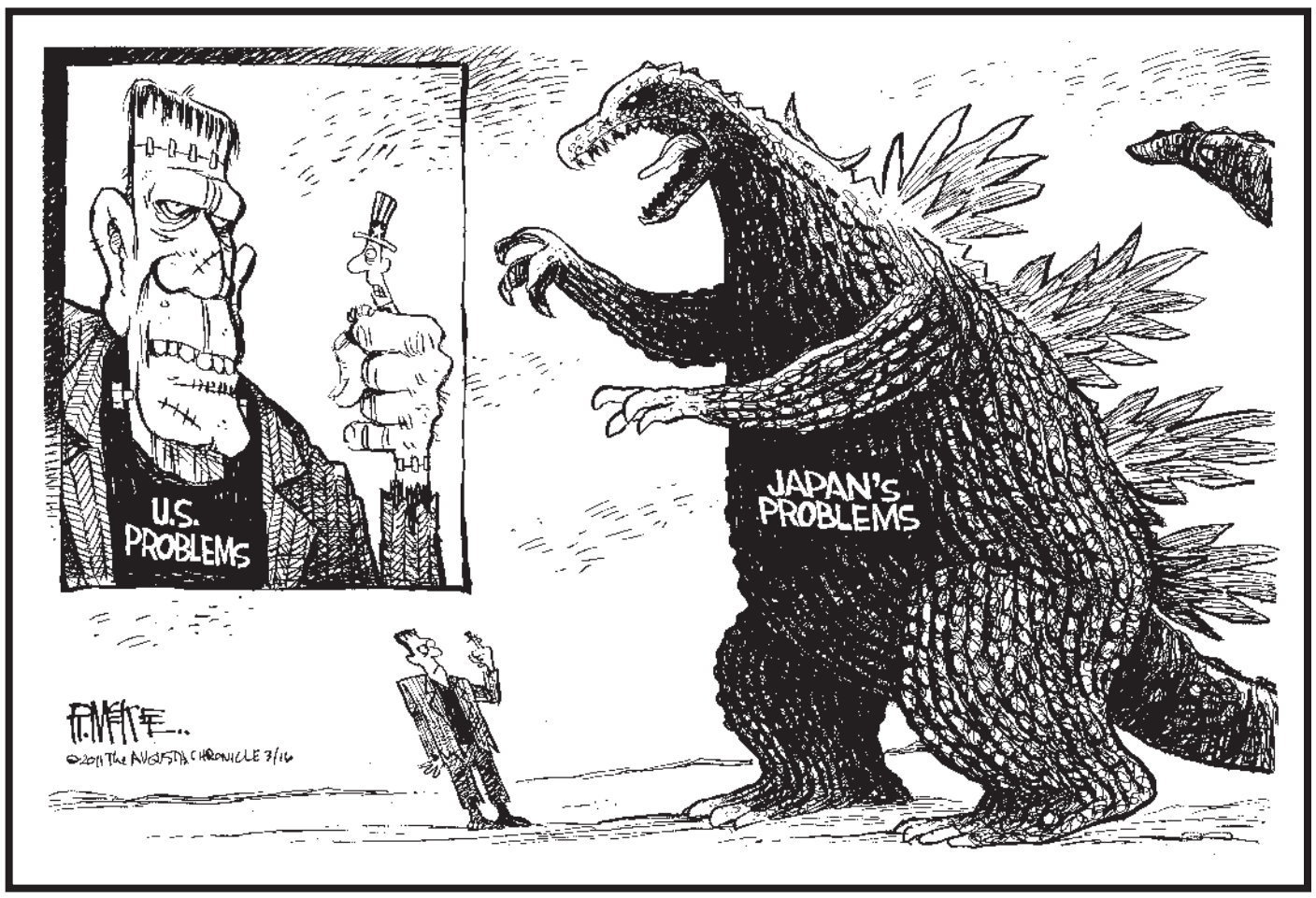

Radiation exposure and potassium iodide

By GARY RAMSEY, MD, BS PHARM, R.PH.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I've already fielded a dozen questions about potassium iodide today. There is a lot of concern among residents on Saipan about the ongoing troubles with Japan's nuclear reactors. The situation seems to become more dangerous each day and people here understandably want to take precautions to protect themselves and their families from a nuclear meltdown and radiation exposure.

I don't know how likely the possibility is for significant radiation to reach Saipan. If there is a meltdown in Japan the radiation would take a few days to reach Saipan and hopefully, by then, the authorities would provide the necessary information to protect us. So far the detectors in Guam have not registered any radiation so this article is for informational purposes only. No action needs to be taken at this time.

One of the dangers of radiation exposure is that it may cause thyroid disease later in life. The thyroid gland, a gland found in the neck that controls our metabolic rate, will absorb radioactive iodine and that can cause thyroid cancer or abnormal growths on the thyroid later on.

One way to protect the thyroid, if radiation exposure has occurred or is imminent, is to take potassium iodide (KI). This comes in tablet and liquid form.

What is Potassium Iodide (KI)? Potassium iodide (also called KI) is a salt of stable (not radioactive) iodine. Stable iodine is an important chemical needed by the body to make thyroid hormones. Most of the stable iodine in our bodies comes from the food we eat. KI is stable iodine in a medicine form.

What does KI do? Following a radiological or nuclear event, radioactive iodine may be released into the air and then be breathed into the lungs. Radioactive iodine may also contaminate the local food supply and get into the body through food or through drink. When radioactive materials get into the body through breathing, eating, or drinking, we say that "internal contamination" has occurred. In the case of internal contamination with radioactive iodine, the thyroid gland quickly absorbs this chemical. Radioactive iodine absorbed by the thyroid can then injure the gland. Because nonradioactive KI acts to block radioactive iodine from being taken into the thyroid gland, it can help protect this gland from injury.

What KI cannot do: Knowing what KI cannot do is also important. KI cannot prevent radioactive iodine from entering the body. KI can protect only the thyroid from radioactive iodine, not other parts of the body. KI cannot reverse the health effects caused by radioactive iodine once damage to the thyroid has occurred. KI cannot protect the body from radioactive elements other than radioactive iodine—if radioactive iodine is not present, taking KI is not protective.

How does KI work? The thyroid gland cannot tell the difference between stable and radioactive iodine and will absorb both. KI works by blocking radioactive iodine from entering the thyroid. When a person takes KI, the stable iodine in the medicine gets absorbed by the thyroid. Because KI contains so much stable iodine, the thyroid gland becomes "full" and cannot absorb any more iodine—either stable or radioactive—for the next 24 hours.

Iodized table salt also contains iodine; iodized table salt contains enough iodine to keep most people healthy under normal conditions. However, table salt does not contain enough iodine to block radioactive iodine from getting into your thyroid gland. You *should not use table salt as a substitute* for KI.

How well does KI work? Knowing that KI may not give a person 100% protection against radioactive iodine is important. How well KI blocks radioactive iodine depends on:

- how much time passes between contamination with radioactive iodine and the taking of KI (the sooner a person takes KI, the better),
- how fast KI is absorbed into the blood, and
- the total amount of radioactive iodine to which a person is exposed.

Who should take KI? The thyroid glands of a fetus and of an infant are most at risk of injury from radioactive iodine. Young children and people with low stores of iodine in their thyroid are also at risk of thyroid injury.

Infants (including breast-fed infants): Infants need to be given the recommended dosage of KI for babies. The amount of KI that gets into breast milk is not enough to protect breast-fed infants from exposure to radioactive iodine. The proper dose of KI given to a nursing infant will help protect it from radioactive iodine that it breathes in or drinks in breast milk.

Children: The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends that all children internally contaminated with (or likely to be internally contaminated with) radioactive iodine take KI, unless they have known allergies to iodine. Children from newborn to 18 years of age are the most sensitive to the potentially harmful effects of radioactive iodine.

Young Adults: The FDA recommends that young adults (between the ages of 18 and 40 years) internally contaminated with (or likely to be internally contaminated with) radioactive iodine take the recommended dose of KI. Young adults are less sensitive to the effects of radioactive iodine than are children.

Pregnant Women: Because all forms of iodine cross the placenta, pregnant women should take KI to protect the growing fetus. However, pregnant women should take only one dose of KI following internal contamination with (or likely internal contamination with) radioactive iodine.

Breastfeeding Women: Women who are breastfeeding should take only one dose of KI if they have been internally contaminated with (or are likely to be internally contaminated with) radioactive iodine. Because radioactive iodine quickly gets into breast milk, CDC recommends that women internally contaminated with (or are likely to be internally contaminated with) radioactive iodine stop breastfeeding and feed their child baby formula or other food if it is available. If breast milk is the only food available for an infant, nursing should continue.

See RADIATION on Next Page

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Seven nuclear things

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

You know you're in interesting times when the high-brow Reuters carries an article on using potassium iodide pills to confront the effects of nuclear fallout. Cazart—in the span of just one week that topic went upscale, jumping from the doomsday crowd to the Brooks Brothers bunch. The reason, of course, is the catastrophe brewing in Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant.

Well, the modern age is a nuclear age. So I've been thinking about what I learned about nuclear environments in the cold war Navy, when we all had atomic stuff on the brain, big time. I've organized things into seven basic concepts.

I'm talking faded memories of quick-and-dirty stuff here, not a comprehensive encyclopedia of nukes, nor a handwringer over the long-term effects of radiation.

First, though, I'll note something that I do not remember from back in the day. Here's the nut from that Reuters piece I mentioned: "Potassium iodide...can protect the thyroid gland from radiation and cancer caused by radioactive iodine." This is a big story now, and there's been a buying spree of these pills.

I don't remember the pill thing being mentioned in my training. Nor do my peers. But we're geezers. So I asked a young corpsman who recently served and she had no recollection of it, either. Yet everybody else is talking about it. So I don't really know if the various doctrines are in agreement or not.

Anyway, here is what I do remember:

Have you seen those yellow and black radiation warning signs? They have a yellow background and three black wedges fanning out from the center. Those wedges stand for three elements of nuclear survival: (1) time, (2) distance, and (3) shielding. You want to minimize your duration of exposure, maximize your distance from the source, and maximize the shielding between you and the source.

Our immediate considerations were two broad categories of nuclear risk (in addition, of course, to the concussive blast risk of a bomb): There are nuclear rays and there are nuclear particles. If you're going to puzzle out a nuclear worry, you've got to figure out which risk you're up against; could be one, could be both.

The rays (gamma rays, for example) propagate just like the waves from a microwave oven. They beam through the air, getting more dispersed, hence essentially weaker, the farther they go.

On the other hand, there are little particles (alpha and beta particles, for example) that can be carried for thousands of miles in the atmosphere along with dust and stuff. When you hear of "fallout," it's referring to particles like these.

I'm sure there are all sorts of particles and rays out there, but these three things (gamma, alpha, beta) are what I remember.

As for rays, the radiation strength is, as I recall, an inverse square of the distance from the source. Double your distance from the source, for instance, and you cut your exposure by a factor of four.

As for shielding against nuclear rays we were told that, roughly speaking, the more dense the shielding is, the more effective it was. That was just a quick rule of thumb, not an in-depth analysis of various material properties in nuclear environments. If you want to dig into this topic, look up the term "halving thickness" on the Web.

Some of the above concepts mesh with simple intuition. For example, in daily life we minimize radiation from the sun's ultraviolet rays by covering up at the beach (shielding) and not spending too long in the sun (time). Of course, a T-shirt won't shield you much against gamma rays; it takes 1cm of lead to cut those in half.

As for particles, at least the alpha and beta variety, the big idea was to keep out of the fallout of the stuff (duh!), keep the stuff from roosting on exposed skin, and keep it from being inhaled or otherwise ingested.

If the stuff gets on the skin, the doctrine was to take a medium temperature shower, not too hot, not too cold. Cold water will close the pores and trap the particles in the skin. On the other hand, hot water will open the pores and admit the particles. People aren't the other things scrubbed: The ships wash themselves with sprinkler systems that rinse the particles off the outside surfaces.

Here's an important point: If anticipating inbound nuclear nasties, the ship would be sealed from the atmosphere; vents closed, hatches closed ("dogged"), and so on. This is obviously a concept to heed if, on some unlucky day, a radioactive cloud is heading toward your house.

In summary, here are seven basic concepts I remember about nuclear threats: time, distance, shielding, rays, particles, fallout avoidance, and washing.

Japan: An example to the world

By DAVID KHORRAM
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD, is a board certified ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, hailed by Retinal Physician Magazine *as "one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region." Dr. Khorram is listed in* Guide to American's Top Ophthalmologists *and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.*

Last Friday afternoon, as the scenes of devastation in Japan began to roll in, we here on Saipan took things seriously. We waited and were relieved that at the appointed hour, 6:53pm, the waves that began to land on Saipan's shores were two feet high. With our own disaster deferred to some future date, we turned our attention more fully to the situation in Japan.

The following day, I watched a press conference on Japanese TV. The chief of the Japan Meteorological Service was reporting on the situation. I was awed by the tone and the demeanor of the press conference, especially when compared to similar press conferences from other countries where natural disasters have struck. Everyone at the Japanese press conference was calm. Respectful. The chief sat at the requisite table with rows of microphones, and updated the nation on the situation in various cities. The reporters' questions were orderly. No one shouted out any questions. There was no attempt to place blame, to find flaws in building construction, or flood walls, or evacuation procedures. The scope of the devastation was acknowledged, and plans to address the needs of the survivors were calmly laid out, even though it was clear that the success of those plans was very unclear. When the chief did not know the answer to a question, he said, "I don't know." There was no spin, no empty words, no deflection. He referred to a question that had been raised in an earlier press conference, and said, "Yes, about that question, I have an answer for you now." Aftershocks were rocking the country. "Yes, there is concern that one could be bigger than the original earthquake." And then the next question was calmly put forth.

Over the past week the press conferences have continued. Even as the nuclear reactors threaten to contaminate the atmosphere, there are no headless chickens flapping in panic. The threat is acknowledged, a nod is given to the unknown, and the country moves forward. "Yes, the 180 people remaining at the nuclear power plant are aware they may be exposed to lethal doses of radiation." No one in Japan feels the urge to proclaim heroes. It's just duty.

There are scenes of immense suffering that are also being broadcast; intense emotion, as would be expected from death of loved ones, destruction of homes, the end of life as it was lived. Yet people stand quietly in line, with hunger and thirst, and await whatever provisions are available. The Western press reports with dismay that there is no looting taking place. Those of us who know Japan are dismayed that the word "looting" would even come up in a conversation about Japan.

Some may feel that the Japanese response, the stoicism and resolve and sense of duty, calm and civility, is somehow wrong—heartless or soulless. But the world has something to learn from watching Japan. I have something to learn. To face hardship, even disaster, with calm and grace, with dignity and forbearance is not to diminish the suffering. It is a way of rising above it.

Comments or questions? Call Dr. Khorram at 235-9090 or contact him through www.MarianasEye.com.

Letter to the Editor

Matters gone awry

With all due respect to the Vice Speaker, since when has it become acceptable for a legislator—presumably a full time position—to be the administering authority for a government activity at the same time?

According to a report in the March 16 *Marianas Variety*, the vice speaker has signed an MOU with the Carolinian Affairs executive assistant allowing her to be the administrator of a new community development center and to conduct community development projects and activities there for five years. The center, formerly the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, is apparently on private land, but under the jurisdiction of the Carolinian Affair Office.

Doesn't this constitute a major conflict of interest? Is this even permissible?

Another action gone awry is the announcement by NMC's Board of Regents, reported in the March 17 *Saipan Tribune*, that it has picked a candidate, even though it did not identify him/her, even though the final report of financial and criminal investigations has not yet been received, even though two of the three are known to have been voted out of one of their previous positions. Most disheartening, particularly as it comes hard on the heels of the irrational decision to make the board's newest member its chairman, even prior to his having received any training whatsoever.

One might also mention the Youth Congress as an action gone awry. With so little interest and such limited participation, how can anyone justify its costs?

All of which makes it all the more refreshing to read about Rep. Diego T. Benavente's opposition to House Bill 17-136, which would lower restrictions on net fishing, the House decision to let the voters decide on whether to allow casinos on Saipan, Kilili's election as ranking minority member of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, CUC's completion of the overhaul of a major generator. At least in some instances, out there, good things are happening, sane actions are taking place!

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

RADIATION

From Page 10

Adults: Adults older than 40 years should not take KI unless public health or emergency management officials say that contamination with a very large dose of radioactive iodine is expected. Adults older than 40 years have the lowest chance of developing thyroid cancer or thyroid injury after contamination with radioactive iodine. They also have a greater chance of having allergic reactions to KI.

When should I take KI? After a radiologic or nuclear event, local public health or emergency management officials will tell the public if KI or other protective actions are needed. For example, public health officials may advise you to remain in your home, school, or place of work (this is known as "shelter-in-place") or to evacuate. You may also be told not to eat some foods and not to drink some beverages until a safe supply can be brought in from outside the affected area. Following the instructions given to you by these authorities can lower the amount of radioactive iodine that enters your body and lower the risk of serious injury to your thyroid gland.

Where can I find KI on Saipan? KI can be purchased in tablet form without a prescription. But as far as I know, there is no KI available on Saipan at this time. It can be ordered online but that doesn't mean it will actually be available from those sources. I've heard that it can be obtained from Canada and perhaps other countries.

What about Kelp tablets? Kelp is a food supplement that has a small amount of iodide in it. Unfortunately the amount of iodide is very small and you would have to take HUNDREDS of tablets to equal the amount of KI in one regular potassium iodide tablet. Don't even consider it.

What about Iodine? Iodine is widely sold for water purification as tincture of iodine, or Povidone-iodine solution (like Betadine). It is "elemental" iodine. It can be POISONOUS if taken by mouth. It is normally used in very small quantities to purify water or treat skin infections. Any other form of iodine, except for potassium iodide, can be dangerous and should not be taken by mouth. In addition, this form of iodine will not work to protect the thyroid.

What else can be done to prepare for a nuclear emergency? For more information on what you can do to prepare for a nuclear emergency please see the CDC websites:

- http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/emergencyfaq.asp
- http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp

There is no reason to take any action at this time, but having this information might be useful in the days to come.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers in the morning, then isolated showers in the afternoon. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

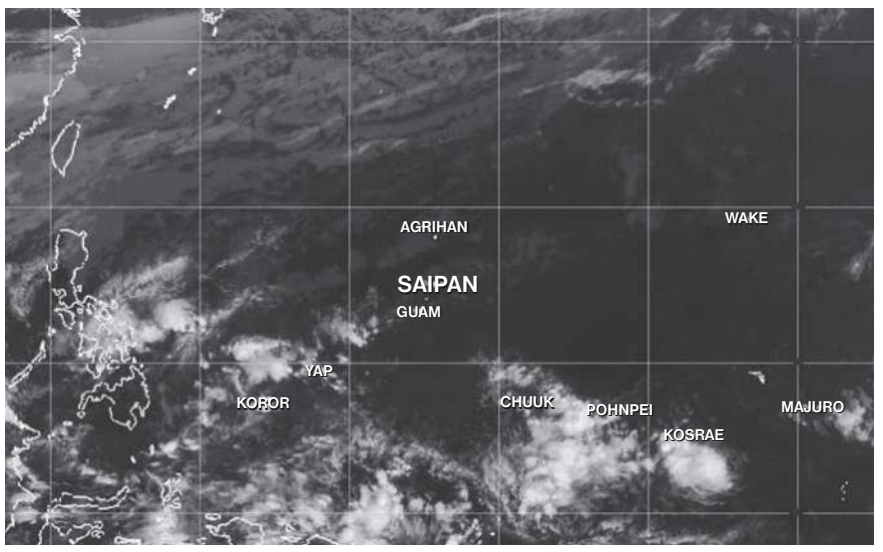
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼63
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼34
Hong Kong	Showers	▲65	▼60
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼72
London	Rain	▲50	▼37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲66	▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼62
New York	Showers	▲68	▼45
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼43
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Rome	Showers	▲62	▼48
Salem	Showers	▲52	▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲55	▼47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼37
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼43
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N149E to beyond 130E at 16N. Clouds and patchy rain are found along and to the northwest of the front including at Iwo To island. A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from 4N130E to a weak circulation near 3N134E then heads northeastward to end south of Yap near 8N140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near Koror or within 70 miles of a line from 6N133E to 9N136E and farther southeast within 80 miles of a line from EQ140E to 5N139E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from 15N168E to beyond 25N at 178E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located east of Wake Island or east of a line from 17N173E to 25N176E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers near Pohnpei and Kapingamarangi south of a line from 3N142E to 2N154E and between EQ and 8N from 154E to 163E and east of Majuro within 120 miles of a line from 15N176E to 10N178E to 9N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:56 PM	4:42 AM
Saturday	5:59 PM	5:29 AM
Sunday	6:59 PM	6:16 AM
Monday	8:01 PM	7:04 AM
Tuesday	9:04 PM	7:54 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1),Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3),Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Letters to the Editor

Land of freedom or land of tyranny?

Thomas Jefferson once said that when the government fears the people you have freedom; when the people fear the government you have tyranny. When the people are afraid to speak out or to be seen at a meeting for fear of losing their jobs or have a family member lose their job, we most certainly have tyranny. I have lost count of the number of times I have had people tell me they fear losing their jobs if they speak out or come to a meeting.

The sad part of it is that you have no one but yourselves to blame for it. If you had stood up for your rights when the Commonwealth was formed, you would not have this mess now. There would be no political hiring. The residents of the island would get their jobs by competitive selection. The most qualified person gets the job. The government would not have more workers than they can afford to pay. The politicians would not be able to get elected by hiring workers for which they have no job.

The truth is that you have brought this mess on yourselves. You have continues to vote for the same self-serving politicians time after time. It was clear to everyone that they were working for themselves and not for the good of the island. But you kept right on electing them. This Legislature had not had a new idea since I have been out there. It is time to get some new blood in the Legislature. The midterm election would be a great time to start. Just remember that after you elect them that you have to keep an eye on them. Let them know that you elected them to do a job and if they do not do the job, you can vote them out of office just as fast as you voted them in. Take back control of your lives and the island.

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Nuclear or no clear?

Let me say this: Sometimes you just can't play around with the law of physics. Certain elements in science are worth discovering and exploring for the benefit of mankind and then there's some that needs to be left completely alone. I guess the term "radiation exposure" doesn't seem to bother some individuals. So with all due respect Dr. Arkle, how did you become such an expert on nuclear science. I'm just curious. Are you and engineer of some sort? If so, then I rest my case. Don't let me be the one to say, "I told you so."

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Good Health
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BOOST
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• Protein Powder • Dietary Supplements
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Pro-Nutrition Muscle Building Milk Shake in Strawberry Chocolate and Vanilla Flavors
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Letters to the Editor

The time for action is now

I read "With tourism in jeopardy: Now what?" and thought I had accidentally picked up an old issue of the *Tribune*. Is this still being discussed? This is worse than the UN discussing no fly zones in Libya! It was time for action years ago! As a visitor to Guam I previously submitted a letter to the *Tribune* noting the bad impressions a tourist can get when visiting Saipan. Now I find the topic still being debated in the paper and not one already dealt with by those whose lives depend on it.

I am a businessman, I love Saipan and I would love to take on Saipan as a marketing project. I'd do it something like this: Start with what you have. Keep those customers you already have, get the repeat visitors (like me) coming back. That means simple physical changes (not costly projects or policies), get rid of those stray dogs (how hard can that be?), get rid of the massage parlors, tear down the abandoned and dilapidated Garapan buildings, tone down those overly pushy Garapan shop sales-ladies that really turn off Japanese shoppers, set up and enforce use of trash bins at the beaches and get the security guards or volunteers back in the parks.

That is exactly what all my Japanese friends say when they come back from Saipan. We were planning to move to Saipan but unfortunately, my wife even won't vacation to Saipan anymore; she prefers Guam where you can actually jog and bike around and not get bitten by dogs or step on their mess. You can wander around on foot and not get harassed by hookers or souvenir hawkers or feel like you are in a slum or you might get robbed.

Face the competition. Guam is stiff competition and it's one reason the tourists aren't coming back to Saipan. You have to compete with Guam but building casinos won't change anything; it will bring in more smut shops and rob the locals of their precious money. It will chase away the family tourists even more, the beaches and tourists sites will suffer neglect. Who will go to the casinos anyway? Asia already has some of the hottest casinos and Tinian's gambling has gone belly up! You already have an abandoned shopping mall and several hotels, why add a casino to the mix?

Don't throw out the base of your industry for a new industry with no guarantees. Find your new niche if you can (how about encouraging owners of unsold homes to start high-end vacation villas?) but you must keep the existing customers coming back for more. The overrated military buildup won't bring in any massive numbers of tourist or big spenders. (They don't even spend money in Guam!) Look at the current make-up of your tourist and build on it and try to bring in bigger spenders at the same time. Win their hearts and they shall return with friends, maybe even rich friends! More airlines and more businesses will follow too.

R. Eben Adolph
Gifu, Japan

Where's my rebate?

Now that the W-2's have been mailed out for the hardworking, God-fearing, loyal, taxpaying constituents of the CNMI I have to laugh. I mean, sometimes it's all you can do.

First of all, the CNMI is now in debt to its citizenry for nearly $60 million. What is more comical is that they have no way or any ideas on how to pay it back to these loyal taxpayers. While this debacle is going on they are still taxing the constituents while still owing them, the taxpayers, thousands of dollars each. My sweet little angel-faced darling Alexis called the airlines today to find about how much it would cost to fly away from the island. "He (the governor] has ruined every holiday for me in the past year," she said to me last week. "I do not have faith in the government any more." We are running out of holidays that can be ruined.

Secondly, what is the governor's plan to pay everyone they owe money to? What is the Senate's plan? Does anyone know? Have they released this information to the public? No, they keep this more quiet than the combination code at Fort Knox. Sixty million plus dollars is a lot of money and they just can't sweep this under the carpet. I mean if anyone owes me more than $1 I don't forget until I get paid and this government owes me nearly 5 digits.

If this were an election year I bet everyone would be paid. It's not, so I am positive that no one will get a dime before July 4th. Most will not see a check from 2009 before Oct. 1. To let you know, I was right about no checks before the start of the school year, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. With that accuracy I should charge for my psychic services. Wait, I better not, the CNMI might charge me taxes for a business and I will never see any refunds, with this record from the governor.

I am curious though. Why isn't anyone else complaining? If everyone is silent, it only gives the CNMI government and governor more reason not to pay the God-fearing citizens, taxpayers and parents of small children who are in need.

Keith Brooks
Dandan, Saipan

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IT&E aids Japan disaster relief effort

IT&E launched yesterday its WE CARE SMS/text campaign to raise funds for the Japan earthquake and Pacific tsunami disaster relief efforts. The WE CARE campaign is open to all current IT&E wireless subscribers in Guam and the CNMI. IT&E will match up to $10,000 in donations and all funds will be given to the American Red Cross for its Japan disaster relief efforts.

Participation in the IT&E WE CARE campaign is simple and straightforward. To donate, IT&E wireless subscribers will text WECARE to 932273 to give 50-cents and IT&E will match your gift. There are no restrictions on the number of WE CARE texts IT&E Wireless Subscribers may send. A charge of 50-cents will appear on your wireless bill or be deducted from your prepaid balance for every TEXT sent to 932273.

"The Sendai Japan earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant disasters affects us all in more ways than we could ever imagined" said Joe Camacho, chief operating officer "Now is our time for IT&E to take the initiative and help our friends and family abroad" added Camacho.

For more information on IT&E's WE CARE Campaign and how you can contribute call its Saipan office at (670) 682-4ITE (4483) or the Guam Office at (671) 922-4ITE (4483). ***(IT&E)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Missing person sought

Sinay

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's help for information on a missing person. On Saturday, March 7, 2011, a missing person report was filed with police. The missing person is Roque D. Sinay. He is described as a Filipino male, age 41, about 5'3" tall, short black hair, 145-155 lbs, no known tattoo, and no mustache. He was seen last Sunday, March 7, 2011, walking behind San Jose Market. As of this time, the police suspect no foul play but needs assistance in finding this person.

Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call.

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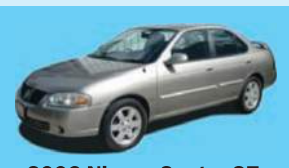
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Judge denies bid to reset ex-detention guard's trial

The federal court denied yesterday the U.S. government's bid to reschedule from April to May the jury trial of a former detention guard accused of forcing three female wards to engage in sex acts.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood ruled that the U.S. government's arguments for resetting the trial do not defeat that case; there will be a judge available to preside over the trial.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial's lawyer, Joseph Norita Camacho, makes a good case that moving the trial would prejudice his client (and, perhaps other clients of his).

"Accordingly, trial remains set for 9am on April 18, 2011. All other deadlines remain the same," the judge said.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto had asked to reset the trial to May 16, 2011, saying, among other reasons, that there is no visiting judge scheduled to be on Saipan in April.

In Fitial's opposition to the request, Camacho said he has five jury trials in Superior Court in May.

The indictment charged the 25-year-old former detention guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit in Kagman with deprivation of rights under color of law and enticement of a minor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Japan consulate opens Book of Condolence for signatures

The Japanese Consulate on Saipan is now accepting signatures in the Book of Condolence for the victims and those suffering from the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami disaster that hit northeastern Japan on March 11. The Book of Condolence will be open on the following schedules to accept signatures for the:

- March 18: 8:30am - 12:15pm and 1pm - 4:30pm
- March 21: 8:30am - 12:15pm and 1pm - 4:30pm
- March 22: 8:30am - 12:15pm and 1pm - 4:30pm
- March 23: 8:30am - 12:15pm and 1pm - 4:30pm

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday Fatcakes aka Gregory Stephen P. Calvo Jr., who will be celebrating his 4th birthday tomorrow, March 19, 2011! "We la-la-la-love you! Greetings come from Chad, Nini, Sia, Ton, and the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to John Matthew Ellama, who is celebrating his first birthday today, March 18. Greetings come from Mama, Papa, and Kuya Waren.

Belated birthday greetings go out to Ramon Rejano, who celebrated his special day yesterday, March 17! Happy birthday Tito Onching! May you have more birthdays to come! Love, Royce, Rane, and Roxanne Ben.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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McDonald's Saipan Turns 18

McDonald's Saipan marks 18th anniversary with promos

The service crew at McDonald's Saipan Middle Road location. CLARISSA V. DAVID

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After 18 solid years, McDonald's Saipan continues to evolve, with its popular offerings of burgers and fries now joined by salads, new desserts, varied sandwiches, and fantastic beverages.

Behind McDonald's Saipan's success is company president Joe Ayuyu, who brought the world's fast food behemoth on island and has painstakingly worked to maintain the chain's highest standards.

"Our equipment and machinery are more sophisticated and continue to be at par with McDonald's International," said general supervisor Anna Olaes. "We regularly conduct training for all employees, from our service crew to our managers."

McDonald's Saipan traces its roots back to March 18, 1993, when it opened its doors in the CNMI at its first location along Middle Road. Four years later, the company opened another branch in Garapan.

"We thank our loyal customers for their continuous patronage. Rest assured that we will continue to give you the best quality of McDonald's products you've loved through the years

See ANNIVERSARY on Next Page

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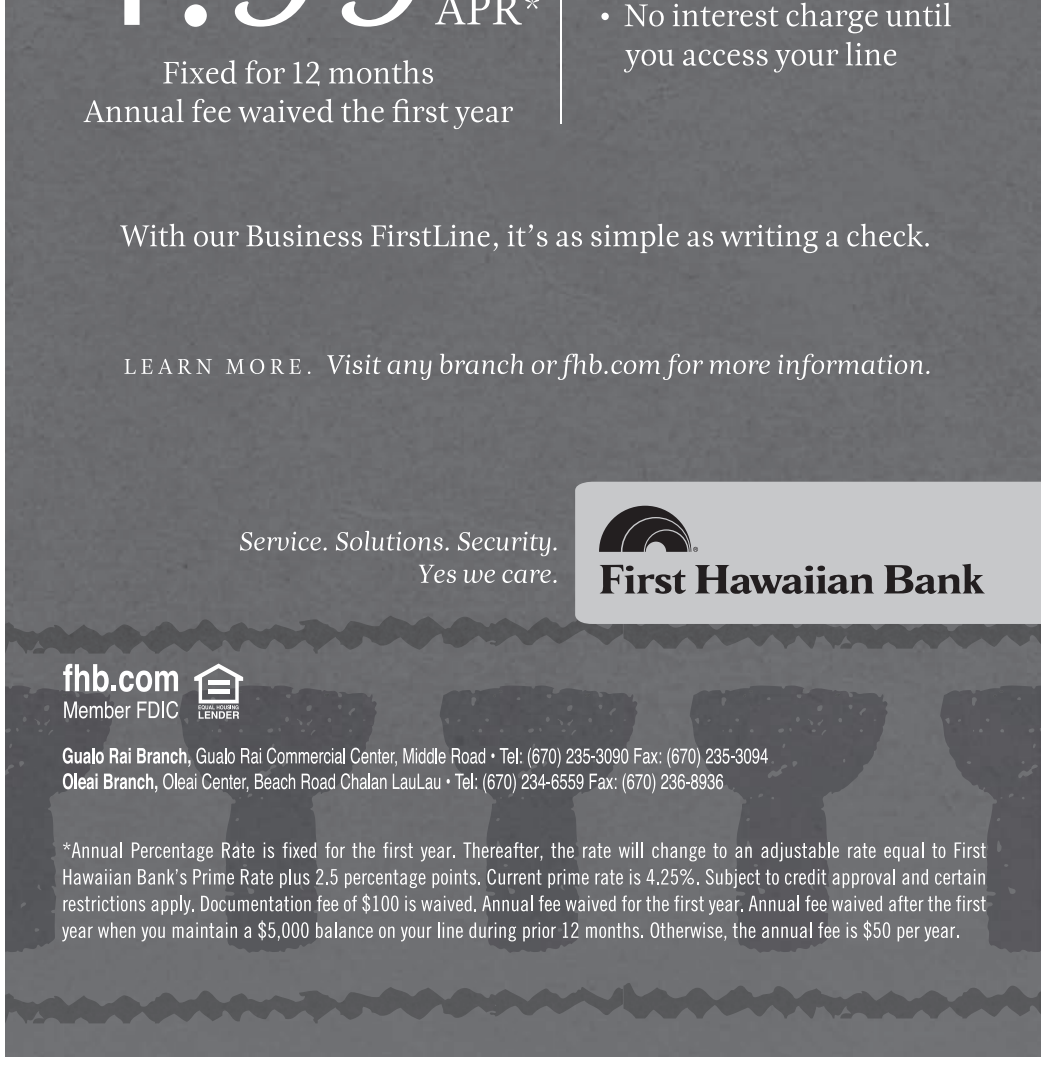
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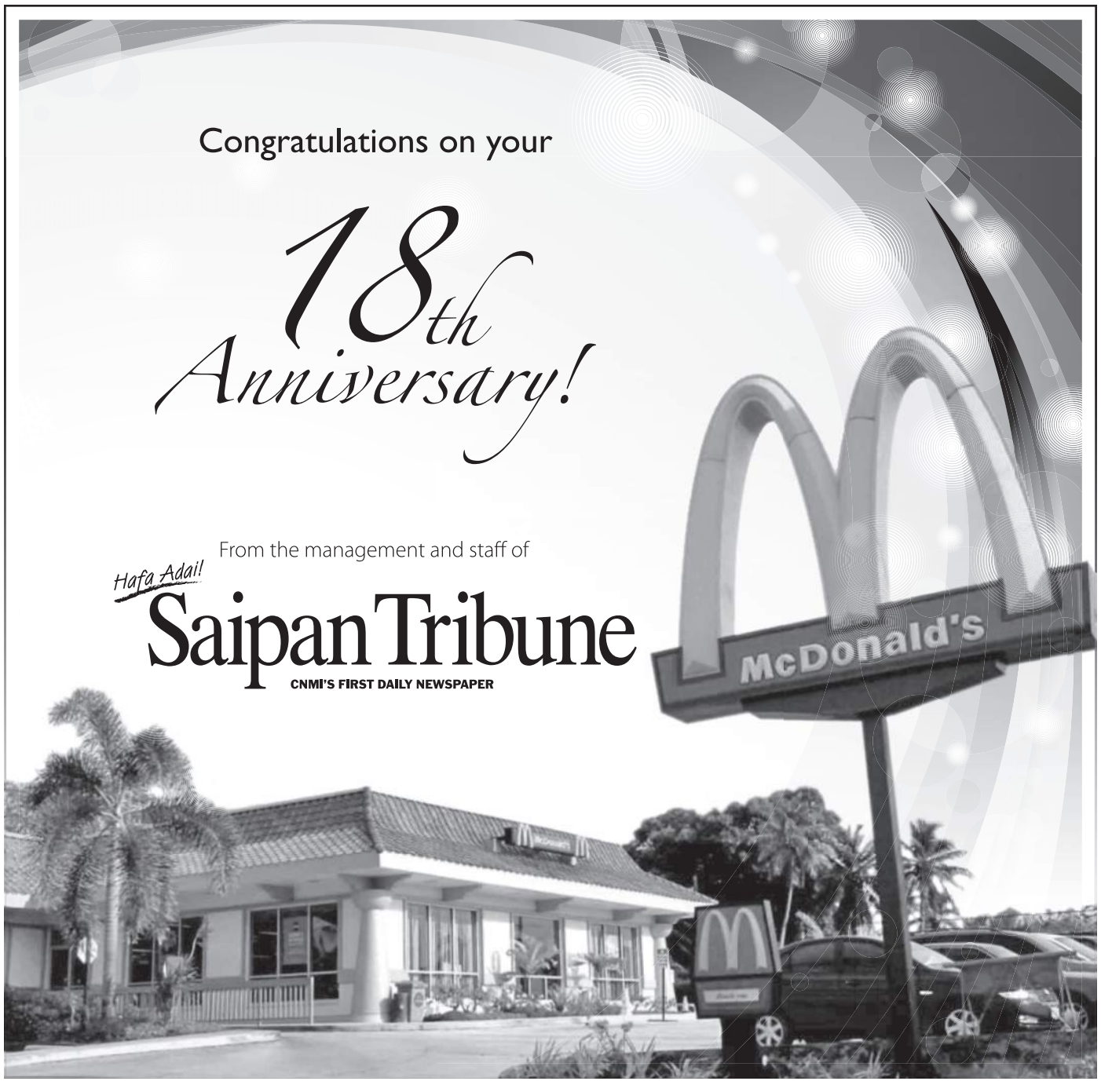

Hardworking team forms the core of McDonald's success

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan celebrates 18 years today with an acknowledgment of the hardworking people behind its success.

Certainly, the Golden Arches commands a throng of loyal customers that patronize its Middle Road and Garapan locations year in and year out but it is also the men and women who form its steadfast team of service crew members, maintenance personnel, and managers who have made a significant contribution to the fast food giant's success.

"McDonald's Saipan management have always recognized and taken care of all personnel for their dedicated service and unwavering commitment," general supervisor Anna Olaes told *Saipan Tribune.*

Olaes, who has been with McDonald's Saipan since 1997, said that most of their staff have with the company for years, owing to their highly satisfactory performance.

These employees, Olaes said, wouldn't remain with the company if it weren't for McDonald's outstanding management practices.

"I am fortunate because after many years, I'm still on island working for McDonalds's," said Middle Road area manager Joseph Achas, who has been with McDonald's Saipan for 15 years.

According to Achas, McDonald's Saipan takes care of its staff very well. "They make sure that employees' welfare are prioritized."

Achas, who worked his way through the ranks, said he has benefited from trainings provided them.

"I work hard to the best of my ability because my boss had put his faith and confidence in me. I am just returning the favor," he said.

Seventeen-year-old Jesselyn Sablan, who started with McDonald's Saipan only a week ago, said it was her fondness for the store's food that made her want to be a service crew.

"I'm glad to be here. After a few days, I saw how important teamwork is. Everyone works hard," she said.

According to Sablan, she sees herself working for McDonald's Saipan for a long time. "We're always here to satisfy you and help you in any way," she said.

Building maintenance and electrician manager Emmanuel Vital, the longest serving McDonald's Saipan employee, has been with the company for 18 years—and counting.

"Anyone who loves what he does and where he works would be stay long in a company, just like me," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Vital certainly did. With his employment at McDonald's Saipan, not only was he able to pay for his children's good education but also enjoy his trainings here and abroad.

A native of Tarlac, Philippines, Vital said McDonald's Saipan is his second employer on island—and probably the last. According to Vital, there have been other job offers and opportunities but he chose to stay.

"They treat me well here. I have no plans of leaving. I wish that McDonald's Saipan will be more successful in the future and even open another branch, so that the management can help more people like me," he said.

ANNIVERSARY

From Page 17

to get your money's worth," she said.

Promotions and giveaways

Anniversary festivities for McDonald's Saipan kicked off Monday with great deals and giveaways for its loyal patrons.

Enjoy your favorite breakfast menu items at reduced prices. Buy Egg McMuffin for only $1.99; Sausage Biscuit with Egg, $1.99; Sausage Egg and Cheese McGriddle Sandwich, $1.99; and Hotcakes with Sausage, $2.99.

For lunch and dinner promos, delight in a Chicken Snack for $1.99; 20-pc Chicken Nuggets, $6.99; and Medium Iced Coffee, $1.99. Get the Medium Iced Coffee for only $0.99 if you buy any large sandwich at regular price.

The breakfast, lunch and dinner promos are available from March 14 to 19.

Today and tomorrow, March 18-19, all Happy Meals are available for only $3.99 each.

Tomorrow, the first 100 customers at Middle Road location with a minimum purchase of $20 will receive either a McDonald's T-shirt or tote bag.

Upcoming products

This year, McDonald's Saipan customers can look forward to exciting new products that will be offered in both locations.

Olaes said they plan to offer within the month the delightful McCafe Shake, which will replace the Triple Thick Shake.

McCafe Shake comes with whipped cream and cherry on top and will be available in vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry flavors in 12 oz, 16 oz, and 22 oz sizes.

In April, McDonald's Saipan will carry the McChicken Plus in two variants: Cheddar Cheese and Jalapeno. The fast food chain will also reinvent its premium chicken sandwiches.

To quench island thirst, McDonald's Saipan is bringing in the Frozen Strawberry Lemonade in May in time for summer.

Visit McDonald's Saipan Middle Road branch from 6:30am to 10pm daily or the Garapan Express location, which is open 24/7.

Business

Responsibility for employee safety

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, a Saipan-based training and consulting firm, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 15 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

Question: I work in a business on Beach Road. I won't get more specific. When the tsunami warning came last Friday, we didn't close and just kept working throughout the warning period. The boss said never mind, we've never been hit by a tsunami. So we kept working. When I saw what happened in Japan, I thought about what might have happened if our wave had been bigger than three feet. I'm just a regular employee. What should I do the next time?

You aren't the only one that this happened to. I've been told of several businesses that didn't close and kept on operating throughout the warning period. I didn't personally observe them because I was working on Capital Hill when it all started and didn't hear about the tsunami until after 5pm or so. So I just stayed there chatting with friends. I have since confirmed that some of the places that I know and do business with didn't close.

What should you do? As an employee you shouldn't even have to ask that question or make the choice to either do what your boss says or head for the hills—your employer should have already made that decision for you. I understand that DPS was very active and did a good job of getting the word out to the low-lying businesses and even forcing the issue and closing some down. Apparently, not everyone followed their instructions.

An employer has both an ethical and statutory responsibility to ensure the safety of the company's employees—as well as a good-management responsibility. The ethical responsibility is a clear question of it being the right thing to do to make all possible efforts to ensure your workers' safety: workplace violence and harassment prevention, proper work and safety equipment, training, typhoon and tsunami preparedness. Putting them in avoidable danger is certainly the wrong thing to do.

From a management and business perspective, employees are a business' most valuable resource. It makes good business sense to worry about their safety over making a few more sales. The cost of failing to do so could be physically, emotionally, and financially disastrous for a company. Managers should also consider what their employees must think of them when they realize their employer is not concerned with their safety.

Last, but not least, there are the statutory requirements under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The purpose of OSHA is to assure . . . "every working man and woman in the nation have safe and healthful working conditions…" [29 U.S.C. §651(b)]. This applies to all employment performed in any workplace within the United States as long as the employer has one or more employees [29 U.S.C. §653]. When it comes to natural disasters, consider the following under OSHA:

- Employers are responsible to protect employees from unreasonable danger in the workplace, which includes an imminent "natural phenomenon" that will threaten employee safety and health;
- Hurricanes and other disasters present obvious safety concerns that employers need to consider when asking employees to come into work during adverse weather, including vehicle accidents, slips and falls, flying objects, electrical hazards from downed power lines, exhaustion from working extended shifts, and dehydration; and
- An employee that reasonably believes he/she has been put in imminent danger because of being forced to go to work during a hurricane may file a complaint with OSHA against the employer and then ask for whistleblower protection.

Now, I haven't checked with OSHA to see if a tsunami warning falls under item 3 above, but if I were an employer who didn't see to the safety of their employers last Friday, I think I would.

I would suggest that they also look at a March 15 Indiana OSHA decision against the University of Notre Dame that was just recently aired by MSN.com. The university was found at fault for the death of a student who fell to his death videotaping football practice during a period of time when the National Weather Service issued an active wind advisory with sustained winds and gusts in excess of 50mph. This unnecessary and preventable death resulted in $77,000 in fines and a pending multi-million-dollar wrongful death suit by the family.

"Notre Dame did not establish and maintain conditions of work that were reasonably safe for its employees that were free from recognized hazards that caused or were likely to cause death or serious injury," according to an IOSHA statement.

Back to the question—"What should I do the next time?" Anyone who watched the horrible and saddening pictures of what the tsunami did in Japan should already know the answer. If our officials feel the situation is dangerous enough to get everyone off the beach and onto the high ground, all businesses and employers should do just that.

I ask that you spare a moment of thought or prayer for Declan Sullivan of Notre Dame and the thousands lost in last week's disaster in Japan.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipantribune.com.

BoH participates in relief effort for earthquake, tsunami victims

HAGATNA, Guam—All Bank of Hawaii branches in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Saipan, and Palau are now accepting donations for the Japan earthquake and tsunami relief efforts. Donations of cash and checks may be dropped off during business hours at any Bank of Hawaii branch. Checks should be made payable to "American Red Cross." Peter Ho, Bank of Hawaii chairman and CEO, said, "Bank of Hawaii would like to express its deepest sympathy to all of the earthquake and tsunami victims. We are pleased to be a part of this relief effort to assist people in Japan. We encourage the people of the Pacific Islands to come into any Bank of Hawaii branch and make a contribution to help Japan recover from this devastation." Bank of Hawaii Foundation will also donate $100,000 to Japan relief efforts. ***(BoH)***

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Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

US starts evacuating some Americans out of Japan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States on Wednesday authorized the first evacuations of Americans out of Japan, taking a tougher stand on the deepening nuclear crisis and warning U.S. citizens to defer all non-essential travel to any part of the country as unpredictable weather and wind conditions risked spreading radioactive contamination. President Barack Obama placed a telephone call to Prime Minister Naoto Kan to discuss Japan's efforts to recover from last week's devastating earthquake and tsunami, and the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Dai-chi plant. Obama promised Kan that the U.S. would offer constant support for its close friend and ally, and "expressed his extraordinary admiration for the character and resolve of the Japanese people," the White House said.

US nuclear plants located near geologic faults

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two years before an immense coastal earthquake plunged Japan into a nuclear crisis, a geologic fault was discovered about a half-mile from a California seaside reactor—alarming regulators who say not enough has been done to gauge the threat to the nation's most populous state. The situation of the Diablo Canyon plant is not unique. Across the country, a spider's web of faults in the Earth's crust raises questions about earthquakes and safety at aging nuclear plants, amplified by horrific images from Japan, where nuclear reactors were crippled by a tsunami caused by a 9-magnitude quake. The Indian Point Energy Center, for example, lies near a fault line 35 miles north of Manhattan; on Wednesday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered a safety review at the plant. But none of the questions are more pressing than in quake-prone California, where about 10 powerful shakers—stronger than magnitude 7—have hit since 1900.

Tsunami killed thousands of seabirds at Midway

HONOLULU (AP)—Thousands of seabirds were killed when the tsunami generated by last week's massive earthquake off Japan flooded Midway, a remote atoll northwest of the main Hawaiian islands, a federal wildlife official said Tuesday. At least 1,000 adult and adolescent Laysan albatross were killed, along with thousands of chicks, said Barry W. Stieglitz, the project leader for the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuges.

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Asia

Japan begins air drop on stricken reactor

ZAO, Japan (AP)—Japanese military helicopters dumped loads of seawater onto a stricken nuclear reactor Thursday, trying to avoid full meltdowns as plant operators said they were close to finishing a new power line that could restore cooling systems and ease the crisis.

U.S. officials in Washington, meanwhile, warned that the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in northeastern Japan may be on the verge of spewing more radioactive material because water was gone from a storage pool that keeps spent nuclear fuel rods from overheating.

■■■

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Emperor Akihito spoke to the nation Wednesday in the first made-for-TV address of his reign, expressing condolences to victims of the massive earthquake and tsunami and urging the Japanese people not to give up.

Bowing and then speaking solemnly in a gray suit, he also voiced concern about the crisis at a nuclear power plant damaged by the disasters that has led to radiation leakage.

"I am deeply concerned about the nuclear situation because it is unpredictable," he said. "With the help of those involved I hope things will not get worse."

■■■

The troubles at several of the plant's reactors were set off when last week's earthquake and tsunami knocked out power and ruined backup generators needed for their cooling systems, adding a major nuclear crisis for Japan as it dealt with twin natural disasters that killed more than 10,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

A Japanese military CH-47 Chinook helicopter began dumping seawater on the damaged reactor of Unit 3 at the Fukushima complex at 9:48 a.m., said defense ministry spokeswoman Kazumi Toyama. The aircraft dumped at least four loads on the reactor, though much of the water appeared to be dispersed in the wind.

At least a dozen more loads were planned in the 40 minutes that each crew can operate before switching to limit radiation exposure, the ministry said.

The dumping was intended both to help cool the reactor and to replenish water in a pool holding spent fuel rods, Toyama said. The plant's owner, Tokyo Electric Power Co., said earlier that the pool was nearly empty, which might cause the rods to overheat.

The comments from U.S. officials indicated there were similar problems at another unit of the Dai-ichi complex.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko said at a congressional hearing in Washington that all the water was gone from a separate spent fuel pool at the plant's Unit 4. Japanese officials expressed similar worries about that unit, but that it was impossible to be sure of its status.

Emergency workers were forced to retreat from the plant Wednesday when radiation levels soared, losing precious time. They resumed work after radiation levels dropped, but much of the monitoring equipment in the plant is inoperable, complicating efforts to assess the situation.

"We are afraid that the water level at unit 4 is the lowest," said Hikaru Kuroda, facilities management official at Tokyo Electric Power Co. But he added, "Because we cannot get near it, the only way to monitor the situation is visually from far away."

The storage pools need a constant source of cooling water. Even when removed from reactors, the rods retain radioactivity and must be cooled for months, possibly longer, to prevent them from posing a threat of meltdown.

Japanese officials raised hopes of easing the crisis earlier Thursday, saying that they may be close to bringing power back to the plant and restoring the reactors' cooling systems.

The new power line would revive electric-powered pumps, allowing the company to control the rising temperatures and pressure that have led to at least partial meltdowns in three reactors. The company is also trying to repair its existing disabled power line.

Tokyo Electric Power spokesman Naoki Tsunoda said the new power line to the plant is almost finished and that officials plan to try it "as soon as possible," but he could not say exactly when.

Reflecting the state of alarm over the issue, Japan's 77-year-old emperor expressed deep concern in a rare unexpected television broadcast on Wednesday, saying "I hope things will not get worse."

He urged the Japanese to care for each other and not give up hope. Millions of lives were disrupted by the magnitude 9 earthquake and subsequent tsunami, which are believed to have killed more than 10,000 people.

Nearly a week after the disaster, police said more than 452,000 were staying in schools and other shelters, as supplies of fuel, medicine and other necessities ran short. Both victims and aid workers appealed for more help.

More than 4,300 people are officially listed as dead, but officials believe the toll will climb to well over 10,000.

"There is enough food, but no fuel or gasoline," said Yuko Niuma, 46, as she stood looking out over Ofunato harbor, where trawlers were flipped on their sides.

The threat of nuclear disaster only added to Japanese misery and frustration.

"The anxiety and anger being felt by people in Fukushima have reached a boiling point," the governor of Fukushima prefecture, Yuhei Sato, fumed in an interview with the Japanese television network NHK. He said evacuation preparations were inadequate, saying centers lacked enough hot meals and basic necessities.

Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated from a 20 kilometer (13 mile) radius around Fukushima Dai-ichi.

A Cabinet spokesman, Noriyuki Shikata, said the government had no plans to expand the evacuation plan. But the U.S. Embassy issued an advisory urging all Americans living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the plant to leave the area or at least remain indoors.

The chief of the U.N. nuclear agency, Yukiya Amano, said he would go to Japan to assess what he called a "very serious" situation and urged Tokyo to provide better information to his organization.

Other countries have complained that Japan has been too slow and vague in releasing details about its rapidly evolving crisis at the complex of six reactors along Japan's northeastern coast.

The 180 emergency workers who were working in shifts to manually pump seawater into the overheating reactors to cool them and stave off complete meltdowns were emerging as heroes as they persevered in circumstances in which no radiation suit could completely protect them.

Japan's health ministry made what it called an "unavoidable" change Wednesday, more than doubling the amount of radiation to which the workers can be legally exposed.

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9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Summit Overview & Guidelines
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Industry Presentations
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Industry Presentations

Day 2 – Wednesday, March 23rd

7:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Summit Day 2 Opening & Registration
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Day 2 Opening Remarks
9:30AM – 12:00 PM	Industry Break-Out Sessions
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Industry Break-Out Sessions
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Presentation of Industry Findings
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World

Supporters call for Libya no-fly vote

UNITED NATIONS (AP)— Supporters of a no-fly zone over Libya called for a Security Council vote Thursday on a U.N. resolution aimed at preventing Moammar Gadhafi's planes from conducting aerial attacks on the Libyan people, but the United States was pushing for broader action to protect civilians from land and sea attacks as well.

Britain and France put a draft resolution that would impose a no-fly zone in a final form late Wednesday after more than eight hours of closed-door discussions by Security Council ambassadors. France's U.N. Ambassador Gerard Araud said the text was being sent to capitals overnight and could still be changed before being put to a vote in the 15-member council.

■■■

AJDABIYA, Libya (AP)— Libyan rebels battled to hold a strategic eastern city against a punishing offensive by forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi, voicing anger and frustration at the West for not coming to their aid. At the same time, government troops heavily shelled the last main rebel bastion near the capital.

Charred vehicles, bullet-riddled pickup trucks and an overturned tank littered the desert highway where pro-Gadhafi forces had fought up to the entrance of the key eastern city of Ajdabiya. An Associated Press Television News cameraman counted at least three bodies by the side of the road, evidence of fierce battles. Government troops were bringing in a stream of truckloads of ammunition, rockets and supplies - signs of an intensified effort by the Libyan leader to retake control of the country he has ruled with an iron fist for more than four decades.

■■■

With Gadhafi's forces intensifying attacks and heading toward rebel-held Bengazi, Libya's second-largest city, U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice told the reporters the Obama administration is "fully focused on the urgency and the gravity of the situation on the ground."

According to a council diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks were private, Rice said during more than eight hours of closed-door discussions by council ambassadors Wednesday the goal should be expanded from creating a no-fly zone to protecting civilians, meaning the international community must have all the tools it needs including authorization to use planes, troops or ships to stop attacks by Gadhafi's air, land and sea forces.

According to the diplomat, Rice said the U.S. will not act without Security Council authorization, does not want to put U.S. ground troops into Libya, and insists on broad international participation, especially by Arab states.

"We are interested in a broad range of actions that will effectively protect civilians and increase the pressure on the Gadhafi regime to halt the killing and to allow the Libyan people to express themselves in their aspirations for the future freely and peacefully," Rice told reporters after the meeting. "Those include discussion of a no-fly zone, but the U.S. view is that ... a no-fly zone has inherent limitations in terms of protection of civilians at immediate risk."

The initial draft resolution would establish a ban on all flights in Libyan airspace and authorize U.N. member states "to take all necessary measures" to protect civilians. But an amendment proposed by the United States and obtained by The Associated Press would authorize states "to protect civilians and civilian objects from the Gadhafi regime, including by halting attacks by air, land and sea forces under the control of the Gadhafi regime."

During the sometimes heated closed-door discussions, the diplomat said Rice told council members the United States is very concerned that Gadhafi's forces are on a rapid march to Benghazi and wants the amendment because a no-fly zone isn't enough to protect civilians from probable atrocities.

It was unclear if the amendment the U.S. was calling for would remain in the text that was eventually put to a vote.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DPH-061

SUBMISSION: APRIL 05, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
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ITB11-TMC-068

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You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Arizona man gets probation in bloodsucking case

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona man has been sentenced to three years of probation for stabbing a man who refused to let him suck his blood. Maricopa County Superior Court says 24-year-old Aaron Homer, of Chandler, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and was sentenced Monday. The Arizona Republic reports 25-year-old Robert Maley once let his roommates suck his blood. But when Maley refused a second time on Oct. 4, he was stabbed. Chandler police said Maley lived with Homer and his girlfriend. Maley said the two men were into "vampire stuff."

Texas bank robber demands loot, shows 2 IDs

DALLAS (AP)—A hapless bank robber who abided by a Dallas teller's request to provide two forms of identification before she could give him money is going to prison. A judge sentenced 49-year-old Nathan Wayne Pugh of Sachse to more than eight years on Tuesday. Pugh tried to hold up a Dallas Wells Fargo Bank in July. The teller stalled Pugh by telling him she needed to see two forms of ID. Pugh showed her his Wells Fargo debit card and a state ID card. He was captured as he tried to flee with $800. Pugh pleaded guilty in October to a bank robbery charge. He was already on parole for two aggravated robberies.

Swedish bank robber busted by forgotten urine

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—A Swedish bank robber forgot to cover his tracks and left three bottles of urine behind after hiding inside a bank vault in Copenhagen for three days. The 27-year-old man and his accomplice used the bottles to relieve themselves after sneaking into the vault on a Friday in May and remaining there until the bank opened again the following Monday. While inside, the robbers emptied 140 safety deposit boxes of at least $500,000 in cash and jewelry. But Prosecutor Frederik Larsen said Wednesday they forgot to take the urine when they left "so we were able to get their DNA samples from the bottles." The evidence helped prosecutors win a 21-month prison sentence for the Swede on Tuesday. His accomplice is still at large and the loot hasn't been recovered.

Smart phone, dumb idea lands Idaho man in jail

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Authorities say a smart phone and a dumb idea have landed a 21-year-old Idaho man in trouble with the law. Boise police say Alexander A. Welch is charged with unlawful exercise of the function of police after officers say he used a cell phone app that flashes blue and red to try to pull over another car Saturday night. A motorist called police to report that someone who didn't appear to be an officer tried to pull the driver over with a flashing blue and red light. The person said the car pulled in behind briefly and then drove away. The suspicious driver followed the car and called police, who located Welch's vehicle. Police found an application on Welch's cell phone that flashed blue and red lights and arrested him.

Squirrel attacking residents of Vt. neighborhood

BENNINGTON, Vt. (AP)—A Vermont neighborhood is being stalked by a renegade gray squirrel. Several people in Bennington say they've been attacked by a squirrel over the last few weeks. Kevin McDonald tells the Bennington Banner he was shoveling snow when the squirrel jumped onto him. He says he threw the animal off, but it twice jumped back onto him. A game warden says there have been other reports, too. One woman is being treated for exposure to rabies, but Vermont Public Health Veterinarian Robert Johnson says there's never been a case of a squirrel passing rabies to a human. Johnson says it's possible the squirrel was raised as a pet and lost its fear of humans. He says the squirrel might "go ballistic" when it encounters people it doesn't recognize.

Mass. city ponders fate of smelly rug

HAVERHILL, Mass. (AP)—Something's rotten at a city hall in Massachusetts and officials know exactly what it is. They're just not sure they can afford to do anything about it. The decades-old carpet in the Haverhill building is stained, frayed, ripped and uneven, but above all, it stinks. City Councilor Dave Hall says in addition to the odor, the carpet is downright dangerous, and he and others have tripped over the bumps. Councilors agreed unanimously Tuesday that something needs to be done. Mayor James Fiorentini agrees, but says the city near the state's New Hampshire border can't afford the minimum $100,000 it will take to replace the offending floor covering.

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EFFECTIVE MARCH 17, 2011

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2,000 tons of cardboard / paper
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Tel: 322-0456; Fax 322-4589

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DEQ-060

SUBMISSION: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"SAIPAN STORMWATER QUALITY SAMPLING AND WATERSHED BOUNDARY DELINEATION FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEQ FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRM NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION COORDINATOR AT (670) 664-8305, OR BY EMAILING *rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp*

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MR. FRANK M. RABAULIMAN AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **MARCH 22, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DPW/ED-066

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 19, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ENERGY PROFILE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED AT THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO energy_profile@recovery.gov.mp.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 05, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M., AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA E-MAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 07, 2011.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, PROC. & SUPPLY

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-SOF-067

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OPERATION AND REVITALIZATION OF LA FIESTA MALL"

THE SCOPE OF WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 15, 2011 AT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME MARCH 25, 2011**. QUESTIONS MAY BE EITHER SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE (670) 664-1115; MAIL OR PERSONAL DELIVERY AND MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, P.O. BOX 5234 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950.

/s/ **LARRISA C. LARSON**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **ELOY S. INOS**
ACTING GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-GOV-065

A/E DESIGN OF THE GARAPAN WATER QUALITY RESTORATION

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide the A/E Design of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A/E services required will be available on Friday, March 18, 2011, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill at 2:00 PM ChST, Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m. ChST March 31, 2011.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, inclusive of resumes and previous project discriptions. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.
Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and Background of the Company(s) and proposed assigned personnel - 25%
2. Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects - 25%
3. Project Approach and Schedule for Completion - 25%
4. Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required - 25%
5. Proposed Costs to perform the A.E design work - 0%

Performance time for completion of the A/E design is One Hundred Sixty (160) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00) for each and every working day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be
subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, will be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP11-GOV-065, A/E Design of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project".** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 19, 2011. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 19, 2011, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 19, 2011, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 28, 2011 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor /S/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-027

REHABILITATION OF SEWER LIFT STATION NOS. S-2 & S-8

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Stations and installation of Force-Main in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the rehabilitation and upgrade of Two (2) Sewer Lift Stations and the installation approximately 1,300 foot of force-main. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work is inclusive of rehabilitation of the wet well, replacement of pumps, guide rails, control panel cleanup of the basins, repair, replacement, rehabilitation of pipeline, pipes, replacement of generator, asphalt paving, etc. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (nonrefundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **March 28, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-027, **Rehabilitation of Sewer Lift Station Nos. S-2 & S-8"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 14, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 7, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Commander, Robert Lorenz, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455 / 234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
P.O. Box 501127
San Jose Village
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455 / 234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, **vs. EDWARD U. MARATITA and ROSA C. MARATITA,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 05-0238** **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, herein referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Edward U. Maratita and Rosa C. Maratita in the following described, real property situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Tract No. 22178, situated in Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Survey Plat Number 3017/86, dated June 26, 1986, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;
and
Lot No. 007 R 34, situated in Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 928 square meters, more or less, as described on Drawing Cadastral Plat No. 1294, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00pm on Friday, April 15, 2011**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Edward U. Maratita and Rosa C. Maratita in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property of its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 10th day of March 2011.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309
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Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, **vs. ANTONIO A. ARRIOLA, MARIA M. ARRIOLA, JOSEPH A. ARRIOLA, A-FAMILIA INC., and U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 05-0303C** **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, herein referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendant Antonio A. Arriola in the following described, improved, real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Land situated in Garapan, Annex II, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly described as **Lot No. 003 D 08** (formerly Block 1 Lot 8) as shown on the Division of Land Survey Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00, dated February 25, 1971, and containing an area of 1002.12 square meters, including all existing improvements on the real estate, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00pm on Friday, April 15, 2011**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Antonio A. Arriola in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property of its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 10th day of March 2011.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, **vs. ESTATE OF LUIS H. MANGLONA through its Administratrix Marcie M. Tomokane,** Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 09-0026-CV** **NOTICE OF SALE**
IN THE MATTER OF: THE ESTATE OF LUIS H. MANGLONA, Deceased.	**Civil Action No. 07-0375-D** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 3rd day of February, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a copy of which has been delivered to its Administratrix and heir directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 7th day of April, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said Judgment, to wit:

Tract No. 22128, located in Ginalangan, Rota, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Plat No. 2066/79 dated December 20, 1984.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 28th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Science & Technology

Tech companies pitch in on earthquake response

SEATTLE (AP)—Google Inc., Twitter, Microsoft Corp. and other U.S. technology companies are finding ways large and small to help out in the wake of last week's earthquake in Japan and the resulting tsunami.

Google put together an online "person finder" database in Japanese, English, Korean, Chinese and Portuguese for people who are either seeking information about a missing person or have information to provide about someone affected by the disaster.

The search company also launched a service that lets people staying in shelters share the list of names of disaster victims posted at their locations. People can snap photos of the lists using their cell phone cameras and e-mail them. The photos automatically are uploaded to an online photo album. Google said it is entering the names on those lists into the person finder database by hand, so that others will know they are alive.

Google, which is based in Mountain View, Calif., has also made its mobile site for the crisis response easier to read for people in Japan who don't have smart phones. It also posted a map in Japanese that gives information about road conditions, with data from Honda.

Microsoft, based in Redmond, Wash., said it was reaching out to customers and partners affected by the earthquake and offering them free technical support and temporary software licenses. The software maker also said it has a Web portal that governments, non-governmental organizations and other agencies can use to communicate with each other and with the public. For people interested in news about the disaster, it set up a page on its Bing search engine.

The company has also pledged $250,000 in cash, according to its disaster response website.

Twitter, a startup that lets people share short messages called tweets, is trying to help organize the flood of information flowing through its system by suggesting a set of "hashtags"—a pound sign followed by a word or code. Tweets with the code "Jishin" at the end, for example, are for general earthquake information. People can search Twitter based on such tags.

Twitter also said its mobile website in Japanese now has a special earthquake section, and it has posted links to mobile phone operators' sites that are trying to help people check on the safety of friends and family in Japan.

EBay Inc., the online auctions and e-commerce platform, is hosting auctions that give part or all of the proceeds to aid agencies helping out in Japan.

PayPal, eBay's online payments division, is crediting transactional fees for a month to qualified U.S. and Canada nonprofit agencies that are raising money to aid in the disaster response in Japan. PayPal usually charges a small fee to the recipient of a payment.

PayPal is also hosting a site with links to nonprofits that are taking donations via PayPal.

Web retailer Amazon.com Inc. and Web portal pioneer Yahoo Inc. have both added links to their home page encouraging people to donate to support the relief efforts.

Motorola to sell Wi-Fi-only Xoom tablet for $599

NEW YORK (AP)—Motorola Mobility says it will start selling a Wi-Fi-only version of its Xoom tablet computer for $599 on March 27.

The Xoom is a prominent competitor to Apple Inc.'s iPad. A version with cellular broadband access went on sale through Verizon Wireless last month for $800, or $600 with a two-year contract.

The Wi-Fi-only iPad 2 model with 32 gigabytes of flash memory, the same amount as the Xoom, also costs $599. Manufacturers trying to take on the iPad have otherwise had a hard time matching the iPad's price.

The iPad 2 and Xoom both have fast dual-core processors and two cameras. But the Motorola Mobility Inc.'s tablet runs Google Inc.'s Android software, while the iPad runs a version of the iPhone's software.

Apple moves to stop kids racking up iTunes bills

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple Inc. has changed how purchases inside iPhone and iPad games are authorized after customers complained that their kids were racking up hundreds of dollars worth of charges.

The issue was that after a user entered his or her iTunes password on a device, the device didn't prompt for the password again for 15 minutes. Any purchases, whether in the iTunes store or inside kid-friendly games such as "The Smurf's Village," went through without a new password prompt.

This meant that parents who handed over their iPhones or iPads to their kids were sometimes shocked by large purchases of "Smurfberries" and other virtual bling.

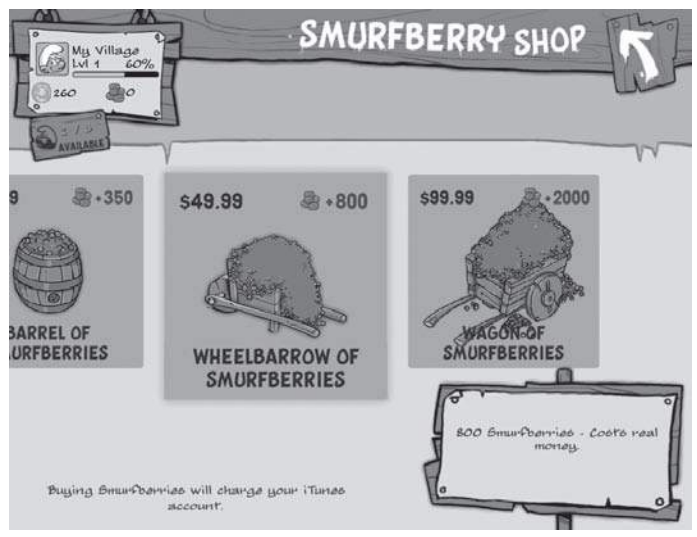
An Associated Press story in December highlighted the phenomenon. A subsequent story in The Washington Post prompted Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., to ask the Federal Trade Commission to look into the issue.

With the iOS 4.3 software update, Apple devices have one 15-minute password-free timer for the App Store and iTunes, and a separate one for in-app purchases, Apple spokeswoman Trudy Muller said.

Muller said she couldn't say why Apple made the change.

Free, child-friendly games that allow in-app purchases are still on the list of top-grossing apps in the App Store. At the top is "Tap Zoo," and "Smurfs' Village" is No. 6. "Smurfberries" and similar items in other games allow players to speed up what is otherwise very slow processes, such growing crops for the Smurfs.

The parents the AP talked to for the December story had received refunds from Apple for the inadvertent purchases.



AP

In this screen shot of Capcom Entertainment Inc.'s "The Smurf's Village" app, the Smurfberry Shop is displayed.

Encryption possible among Wi-Fi-connected devices

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My Wi-Fi network was set up for me, and it's not password protected. It connects a Toshiba laptop, a Sony PlayStation 3, a Roku media player — and, I suppose, anyone else in the area. I do all my banking online, and would like to protect myself, but I don't know what to do with all these devices.

Also, how hard would it be to connect my laptop with my Sony Vaio desktop PC so I can access information on each one?—Harold Gabriel, Brooklyn Center, Minn.

ANSWER: The safest way to bank is to connect from a computer that has a wired connection to your Internet modem. While there are several encryption methods that make intercepting Wi-Fi communications difficult, none can guarantee your banking transactions are safe.

But encryption does make sense for lesser transactions made through your PS3 or Roku device, such as game purchases or Netflix log-in information. For details, see tinyurl.com/48578cx.

Your Wi-Fi network already allows you to share files between your computers, provided that you activate Windows file sharing. For Windows Vista, see tinyurl.com/28x93us. For Windows 7, see tinyurl.com/yj9pxfj. For Windows XP, see tinyurl.com/ku6ab.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Whenever I sign out of my e-mail account, I get a message that says, "The current Web page is trying to open a site in your Trusted Sites list. Do you want to allow this?" If I say no, I get a blank screen. If I say yes, I go on to a weather page. How do I get rid of this message?—Bob Henry, Ottawa

A: The Internet Explorer browser is giving you the warning, which was designed prevent malicious code on a Web page from gaining unlimited access to your PC.

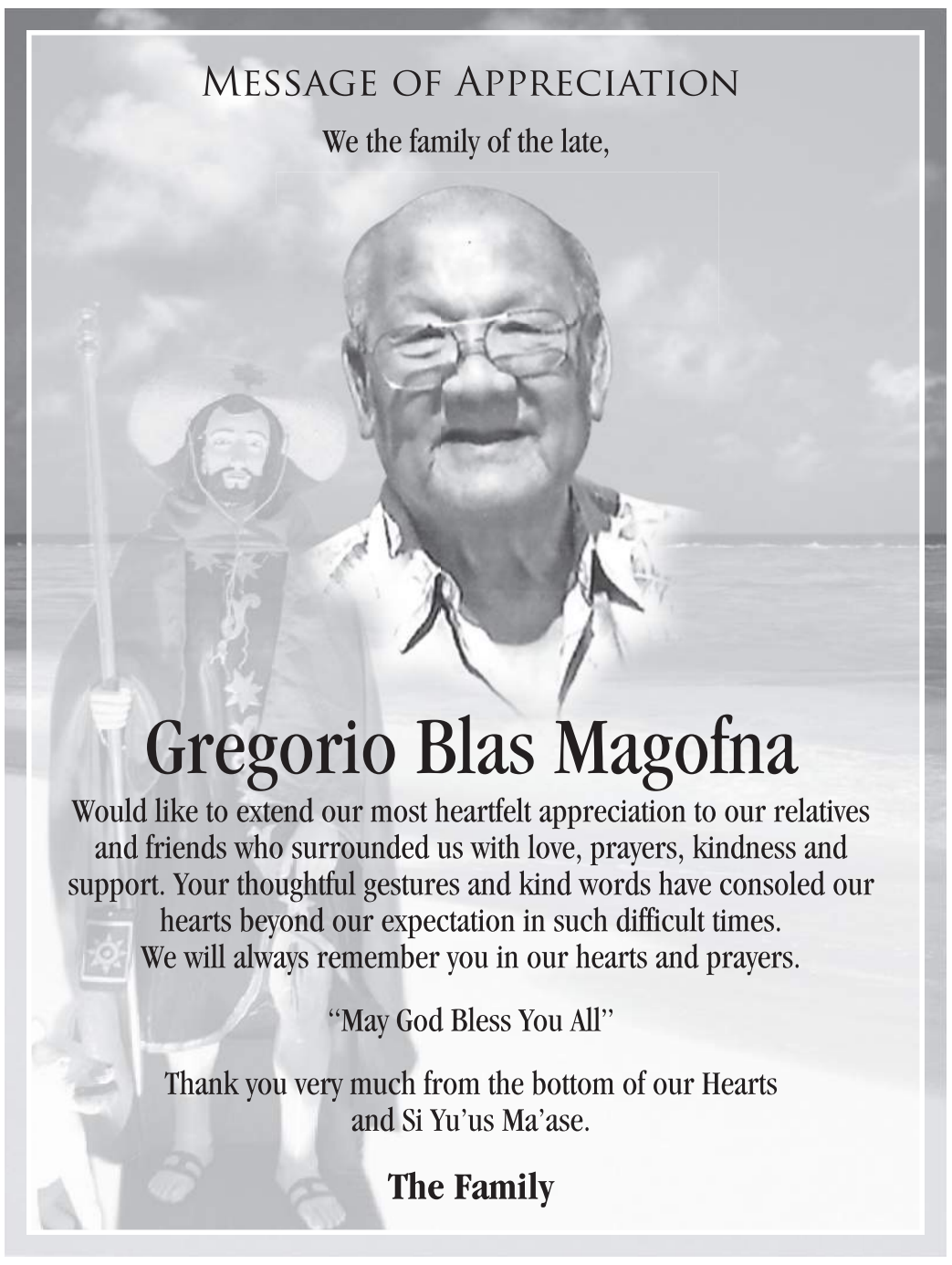
But sometimes these warnings are more annoying than useful. In this case, a warning is generated when you try to go from your e-mail sign-in page, which has a lower security rating, to your weather page, which has a higher rating.

There are two ways to fix this.

You could add your e-mail page to your "trusted" websites list; that way you won't be going from a lower level of security to a higher level. To do that, go to IE's Tools heading, choose Internet Options and click the "security" tab. Click the icon for "trusted sites," then click the "sites" button. Put your e-mail sign-in page in the "add" box and click "add," then "close."

Or you could disable the warning. To do that, go to Tools, Internet Options and click the "security" tab. Highlight "trusted sites" and under "security level for this zone" click the "custom level" button. In the resulting list, click "enable" beneath "websites in less privileged Web content zone can navigate into this zone."

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*


MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
We the family of the late,
Gregorio Blas Magofna
Would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with love, prayers, kindness and support. Your thoughtful gestures and kind words have consoled our hearts beyond our expectation in such difficult times.
We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.
"May God Bless You All"
Thank you very much from the bottom of our Hearts and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
The Family

Life & Style

Foster grateful for Gibson role in new movie

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Jodie Foster premiered the quirky but dark movie "The Beaver" at the South by Southwest Film Festival on Wednesday night, saying she's grateful for the performance by troubled actor and friend Mel Gibson.

The film follows a depressed toy company executive who picks up a hand puppet beaver and uses it to separate himself from the negative aspects of his personality that are destroying his family and career. Foster directed the movie and plays Gibson's wife.

"I can't imagine anybody else doing it. He has such a deep, struggling soul that really understood the part of the movie that's about a man in a spiritual crisis," Foster said on the red carpet before the screening.

Gibson, who recently was sentenced to 36 months of probation and ordered to attend 52 weeks of domestic violence counseling after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor charge of spousal battery on former girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva, did not attend the premiere.

Foster

The battery charge was another blow to Gibson's reputation, which took a major hit after his 2006 arrest for drunken driving. A deputy's report leaked to the celebrity website TMZ revealed the action star had used anti-Semitic and sexist slurs.

Foster, who has remained a steadfast friend of Gibson, acknowledged the battery charge made release of the film tricky.

"There were all sorts of things that were beyond our control," she told the audience after the movie, "It's been difficult. In the last six months there hasn't been any real audience (for the film). I think we all made the wise decision we should keep the film in some ways private and under wraps until we were ready to release."

Royal wedding: charitable gifts only

LONDON (AP)—What to get the couple who has everything? How about a donation to a rhino sanctuary—or an offer of help for earthquake victims in New Zealand.

Prince William and Kate Middleton on Wednesday requested charitable gifts in lieu of wedding presents, seeking to pre-empt the tide of extravagant—and unusual—offerings that typically flood in for a royal engagement.

The palace said the couple was "touched by the goodwill shown them," and selected 26 charities to benefit from a special charity gift fund.

Their decision to forego toasters, gravy boats and candlesticks sets William and Middleton apart from other soon-to-be newlyweds and even the prince's parents, whose use of a wedding gift registry, replete with items such as a gourmet barbecue set and pair of Cockatoos, was slammed by the press as "a vulgar, middle-class custom."

While Charles and Diana did get some gifts in the form of charitable donations, William and his bride-to-be are said to be determined to make sure their April 29 wedding is not seen as overly ostentatious at a time when the British economy is hurting.

The charities they have selected—including some based in Canada, Australia and New Zealand—represent a range of issues, from support for army widows to local community foundations and the arts.

First lady to write book about WH garden

NEW YORK (AP)—There's a new author in the White House: Michelle Obama.

The first lady has signed with the Crown Publishing Group for a book about the garden she started on the South Lawn of the White House and the benefits of healthy eating. The book, currently untitled, is scheduled to come out in April 2012. Obama received no advance and will donate all proceeds to a charity or charities to be determined.

The White House said the garden has yielded more than 2,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"We've gotten food out of the garden, and we can eat it and it's good," Obama said Wednesday during a brief telephone interview with The Associated Press. "So we wanted to share the story with the rest of the nation and perhaps with the rest of the world, because we get so many questions about the garden: How did we do it? Why did we do it? How do I do this in my own home or community?"

The first lady, 47, has been an advocate for locally grown food and last year started an anti-obesity campaign, "Let's Move!" According to Crown, the book will be "inspirational and instructive, and will provide ideas and resources for readers to get involved in the movement to create community, school and urban gardens, support local farmers' markets, and make small lifestyle changes to achieve big health results.

American Red Cross

25th NMI RED CROSS WALKATHON

Saturday, April 9th, 2011

Start Time: 6:00am ★ Location: 4-H building-Susupe

A $15.00 donation receives a t-shirt and mini First Aid Kit
Free Sandwich and refreshments for walkers

Featuring: DPH Health Fair ★ Blood Pressure Checks
NMC CREES Cooking demonstration ★ DPS-Fire big truck show
Carnival Games ★ Face Painting ★ Petting Zoo ★ Bounce House

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Paul
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Simon Pegg, Nick Frost
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Two British buddies (Shaun of the Dead/Hot Fuzz's Simon Pegg and Nick Frost) head out on the road in search of Area 51 after attending a comic convention, only to encounter a cute little alien named Paul along the way in this comedy from Working Title and Universal Pictures. Superbad's Greg Mottola directs from a script by Pegg and Frost.

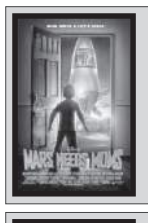
Limitless
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro
Thriller, Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The Illusionist's Neil Burger helms this adaptation of Alan Glynn's novel detailing what happens when a man stumbles upon a one-of-a-kind smart pill. Hairspray's Leslie Dixon provides the screenplay for the Universal production.

Battle: Los Angeles
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A platoon of Marines take on an alien invasion throughout Los Angeles in this Original Films sci-fi action picture, headed by director Jonathan Liebesman (Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning) and producer Neal H. Moritz. The Dark Knight's Aaron Eckhart stars in the produciton.

Red Riding Hood
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Amanda Sayfried, Gary Oldman
Horror • Rated PG 13



Mars Needs Moms
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Seth Green, Joan Cusack
Science Fiction • Rated PG

Rango
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher
Children's/Family • Rated G

I Am Number Four
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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Malaysia radio cuts gay lyrics in Lady Gaga anthem

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian radio stations worry some lyrics in Lady Gaga's gay anthem "Born This Way" are on the wrong track, baby.

The stations are refusing to play lyrics in the hit song that encourage public acceptance of gays. The main private radio operator in this Muslim-majority country says it's being cautious because the government forbids potentially offensive content.

Broadcasters in the Muslim-majority country that have played "Born This Way" used indecipherable garble to replace the lyrics: "No matter gay, straight or bi, lesbian, transgendered life, I'm on the right track, baby."

AMP Radio Networks said Thursday in a statement to The Associated Press that those lyrics "may be considered as offensive when viewed against Malaysia's social and religious observances."

AP

In this Sept. 12, 2010 file photo, Lady Gaga is seen backstage after accepting the award for Video of the Year for "Bad Romance" at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

'Idol' finalists brave birth-year tunes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" finalist Thia Megia could be gone with the wind come Thursday.

The breathy 16-year-old high school student from Mountain House, Calif., didn't dazzle the Fox talent competition's judges Wednesday with her rendition of Vanessa Williams' "Colors of the Wind." Randy Jackson said he felt like he was at "some pageant somewhere" after Megia performed the song from Walt Disney's "Pocahontas."

Other wannabe divas also failed to impress on the evening of birth-year tunes.

Jackson said he was confused by Haley Reinhart. The 20-year-old college student from Wheeling, Ill., sang Whitney Houston's "I'm Your Baby Tonight."

Jennifer Lopez advised 21-year-old college student Karen Rodriguez of New York to stop being nervous after she took on Taylor Dayne's "Love Will Lead You Back."

One of the top 12 singers will face dismissal Thursday.

AP

In this publicity image released by Fox, Thia Megia performs on the singing competition series "American Idol," on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Rapper Tru Life gets 8 years' prison in NYC attack

NEW YORK (AP)—A rapper once being promoted as a rising star at a label run by Jay-Z was sentenced Wednesday to eight years in prison for taking part in a deadly attack on a man he said he didn't mean to harm.

Tru Life, born Robert Rosado, didn't speak as he was sentenced alongside older brother Marcus Rosado, who admitted stabbing Christopher Guerrero to death and wounding another man in a June 2009 fight that involved both brothers. Marcus Rosado, 39, pleaded guilty last month to manslaughter and got a 10-year sentence; Tru Life, 34, pleaded guilty to gang assault.

"Robert is extremely saddened by what happened. Mr. Guerrero did not deserve what happened to him," said the rapper's lawyer, Alan Abramson. Marcus Rosado offered his condolences to Guerrero's family.

The slain man's relatives blasted the sentences, set in plea bargains, as too light.

"Christopher, who was unarmed and defenseless, was attacked," said Jason Ramirez, the victim's brother. "We believe the system has failed us."

Through their lawyers, the Rosados said the 20-year-old Guerrero wasn't their intended target in violence that followed an argument at a nightclub and ultimately sprawled into an apartment building lobby.

The Rosados chased Guerrero and Jason Gray into the lobby, where Guerrero was stabbed in the abdomen and Gray suffered a cut that sliced an artery, according to court documents. They got outside and collapsed on the ground, court documents said.

Raised on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Tru Life made a name for himself on mixtapes and eventually made his way into Jay-Z's stable of rappers. Tru Life won over the rap titan in a scene chronicled in a 2005 New York Times article about Jay-Z, then head of Def Jam Records.

Tru Life was signed for a time and groomed to be a mainstay of Roc-La Familia, a Latin-oriented arm of Roc-A-Fella Records, a label Jay-Z co-founded.

But Tru Life also became known for feuding with other rappers, including duo Mobb Deep and Harlem-based rapper Jim Jones.

Rapper Petey Pablo pleads guilty to weapons charge

NEW BERN, N.C. (AP)—Hip-hop artist Petey Pablo has pleaded guilty to possession of a stolen firearm.

The rapper, whose real name is Moses Barrett III, appeared in federal court Wednesday to enter his guilty plea. Federal prosecutors agreed to drop two other charges in a plea agreement.

Petey Pablo was arrested last year while attempting to clear security at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Authorities found a loaded gun in a bag that had passed through an X-ray machine.

He faces up to 10 years in prison and is scheduled to be sentenced in June. His attorney did not return a call seeking comment Wednesday.

The rapper is best known for the songs "Raise Up" and "Freek-a-Leek."

His turn: Jermaine Jackson has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—A long-rumored memoir by Michael Jackson's brother Jermaine is finally coming out. Touchstone announced Wednesday that Jermaine Jackson's "You are Not Alone: Michael: Through a Brother's Eye" will be released this fall. Touchstone, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, promises a "faithful and loving portrait," but one with "no subject off limits."

Jackson

Jackson spoke in 2003 of wanting to write a memoir and reports surfaced again after Michael's death, in 2009.

Sisters Janet Jackson and La Toya Jackson also have books out this year.

Customers who are patronized may decide not to be patrons

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: While standing in a checkout line yesterday, I witnessed a cashier speak to the older woman in front of me in a condescending manner. She kept calling her "Sweetie" and talking to her as if she were a 3-year-old. The woman was obviously offended, but said nothing.

I experienced this kind of behavior often when my mother was alive. Receptionists, waitresses, store clerks and others would direct their questions to me and talk to me while my mother stood there, perfectly capable of answering the questions herself. I'm sure these people did not intend to be rude or disrespectful. However, it was extremely annoying to both Mother and me.

Because a person is elderly does not mean he or she is senile. Regardless of their mental capacity, older people have earned the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

OFFENDED IN KINGSPORT, TENN.

DEAR OFFENDED: I'm glad you wrote. I have seen it happen, too, and with people who should have known better. And when it did happen, the offender was sometimes called on it in a way that wasn't at all "sweet."

Readers, if this letter strikes a familiar chord, please remember that most senior citizens are completely in control of their faculties and treat them accordingly. (Or risk losing a customer.)

■■■

DEAR ABBY: At least two or three times a week, I receive requests for donations from various organizations. Many times the envelopes contain address labels, calendars and notepads. As much as I would like, I can't afford to donate to every cause. Is it wrong to use these "gifts" if I don't contribute? It's a shame to waste them—especially the address labels. No one else can use them.

I'm sure I'm not the only person who struggles with this moral dilemma. I'd really like your input.

FEELING GUILTY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR FEELING GUILTY: The organizations that send those unsolicited mailings count on the recipients feeling so guilty that they'll send something. If using the unsolicited "gifts" makes you feel guilty, toss them or don't open the envelope in the first place.

Compile a list of those causes that you wish to give to, decide what amount you have to donate to all of them, divide the total and send your checks. And as you do, check them off your list to make sure you won't accidentally give twice because many (not all) organizations solicit more than once a year, hoping donors will forget they have given and send more.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am seeing a therapist for my depression. The problem is I find myself wanting to have sexual relations with him. I'm 23, and he's older than my father, who is 63! What's wrong with me? Obviously, I can't have an affair with my therapist, and I desperately do not want to change doctors. Please help.

LOVESICK PATIENT IN MONTANA

DEAR LOVESICK: What's going on with you is very common. There is a name for it: transference. While this may be embarrassing to you, I assure you your therapist has heard it before. It's not necessary that you change doctors, but it is important that you be honest about your feelings. (Nobody ever said therapy was for the faint of heart!)

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

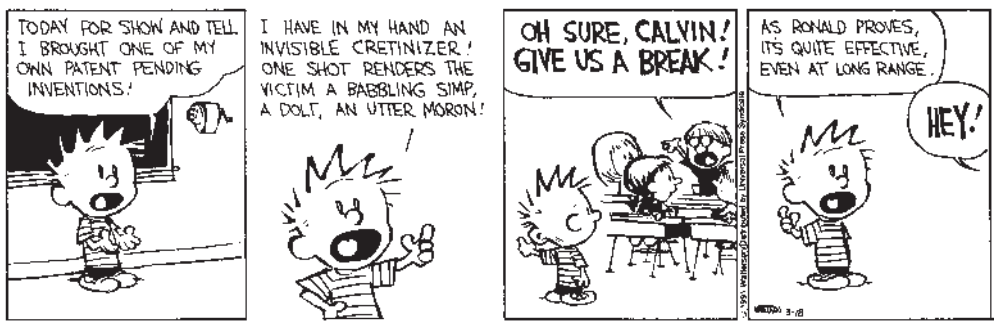
■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

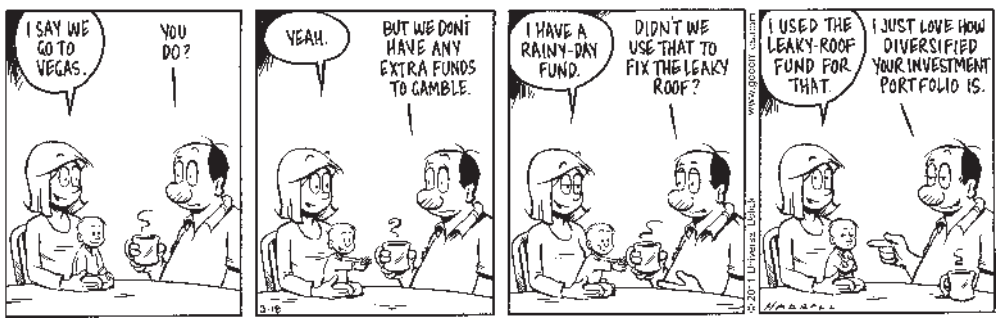

TODAY FOR SHOW AND TELL I BROUGHT ONE OF MY OWN PATENT PENDING INVENTIONS!
I HAVE IN MY HAND AN INVISIBLE CRETINIZER! ONE SHOT RENDERS THE VICTIM A BABBLING SIMP, A DOLT, AN UTTER MORON!
OH SURE, CALVIN! GIVE US A BREAK!
AS RONALD PROVES, IT'S QUITE EFFECTIVE, EVEN AT LONG RANGE.
HEY!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I SAY WE GO TO VEGAS.
YOU DO?
YEAH.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA FUNDS TO GAMBLE.
I HAVE A RAINY-DAY FUND.
DIDN'T WE USE THAT TO FIX THE LEAKY ROOF?
I USED THE LEAKY-ROOF FUND FOR THAT.
I JUST LOVE HOW DIVERSIFIED YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO IS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

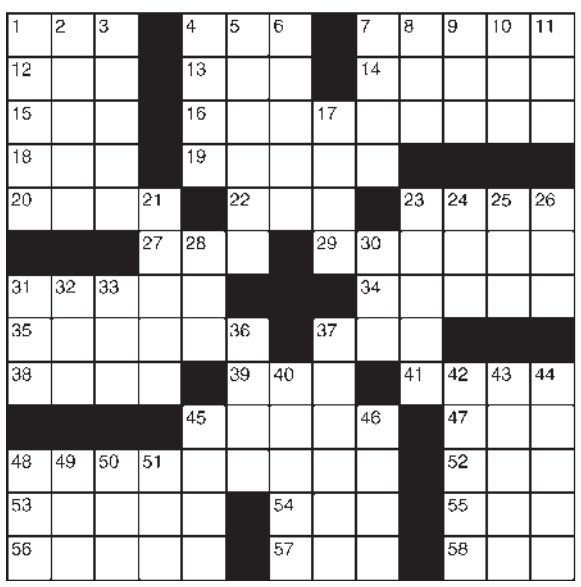
ACROSS
1 Rd.
4 Write a P.S.
7 Standish stand-in
12 "Great Expectations" lad
13 Mainlander's memento
14 Break in the action
15 Big fuss
16 Whitsunday
18 Critic Reed
19 Masts
20 Santa's sackful
22 Detergent brand
23 Brothers and sisters
27 Has the skills
29 Confined
31 Pizza topping
34 Impudent
35 Quintet
37 Listending abbr.
38 Bivouac structure
39 Listener
41 Recognized
45 "Get lost!"
47 Leading lady?
48 Ritzy apartment
52 Marry
53 Nebraska city
54 Spelldown
55 Work unit
56 Conned
57 Clumsy boat
58 Caustic solution

DOWN
1 In two places at once?
2 YouTube offering
3 Strong adhesive
4 Heidi's territory
5 Drill further
6 Money of Bahrain
7 Tarzan's clique
8 Fond du —
9 Twosome
10 Curvy character
11 Profit
17 Snare
21 "Gladiator" director
23 Nosh
24 "Monty Python" opener
25 Clear the tables
26 Agent
28 Santa — winds
30 NYC hrs.
31 Make up your mind
32 Born
33 Hostel
36 Erte's style
37 Chalkboard accessory
40 Tourist spot off Venezuela
42 Staircase post
43 Each
44 Golf club type
45 Roe provider
46 Timid
48 Spacecraft compartment
49 Ostrich's kin
50 Siesta
51 Definite article

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	S	■	W	A	I	F	■	P	H	E	W
A	G	E	■	A	F	R	O	■	R	I	M	E
R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C	■	E	V	I	L
■	■	A	R	T	■	S	U	B	V	E	R	T
B	A	N	K	E	R	■	S	U	I	■	■	■
R	U	T	■	D	U	D	■	D	E	P	E	W
A	R	I	D	■	M	O	B	■	W	E	V	E
N	A	C	R	E	■	W	A	D	■	D	E	N
■	■	■	O	V	A	■	R	E	T	A	R	D
W	A	X	P	A	L	M	■	C	O	N	■	■
E	L	M	O	■	G	I	G	A	N	T	I	C
B	E	A	U	■	A	R	M	Y	■	I	D	A
B	E	S	T	■	E	A	T	S	■	C	O	P

Yesterday's answer 3-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Levine, 32; Dane Cook, 39; Queen Latifah, 41; Vanessa Williams, 48

Happy Birthday: You will have to work long and hard but the pay off will be extraordinary. Limit your spending and keep your socializing to a minimum. This is a work year that can change the course of your life if you are willing to sacrifice the time, effort and your talents toward your professional destination. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 27, 31, 38, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your undivided attention to a job or project will draw recognition and possible advancement. Don't count on anything until you have a signed agreement. You may underestimate the size of a job offer or overestimate what you are able to handle. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take a broader look at the possibilities available to you. Plan a trip if it will allow you to speak face-to-face with someone who can offer sound advice or hands-on help. Include someone you love in your plans. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may know what you want to do but convincing others won't be as easy. Don't bully. You stand a much better chance of getting what you want by getting things up and running before you ask others to participate. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put a little physical labor into your residence. It will make your life less stressful and more comfortable. You don't have to spend a lot. Use your imagination and creative skills. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be eager to incorporate change into your life, whether it's personal, geographical or an altered lifestyle. Consider how it will affect the people around you. You are likely to meet with emotional opposition if you don't seek approval first. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Live in the moment: Savor your friendships, family and your lover. Do what feels right, follow your heart and make a commitment to your personal and professional future. Base decisions on past experience and how that can be projected into the future. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Focus on friendships, children or the love of your life. This is a great day to socialize, network or plan something special to enhance your relationship with someone. Don't let the changes going on around you at work get you down. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stop being so secretive about what you are trying to achieve and start to present and promote your accomplishments. Once you share your plans, ideas and goals, you will realize that what you have to offer is in demand and can be even better with the input you receive. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): So much depends on where you put your energy and how you treat others. Concentrate on home and family. Refuse to let someone pull you into a dispute that can cause an emotional problem with a friend, relative or neighbor. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Investments, settlements and rebates can bring you a cash injection. Someone may want to help you spend money. Instead, put it in a safe place where it has the greatest potential to grow. Impulsive action will be your demise. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Being responsible will help convince people who have known you a long time that you are on the right track. You will gain respect, support and help if you initiate the first move. Make a promise to reach your goals this time around. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Not everyone will have your best intentions in mind. Fend for yourself when it comes to work-related matters. Emotional deception and competitive posturing are apparent. Don't mistake stubbornness for insubordination. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have drive, passion and energy, coupled with precision, patience and professionalism. You will not cave under pressure.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	8		3					
3				5	7			
						9		
7				9			6	
	5		2	3	1		7	
	2			4				3
		6						
			5	8				4
					9		5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	8	9	4	6	1	7	3
9	4	3	1	7	2	6	5	8
6	1	7	5	8	3	9	2	4
1	3	6	7	2	4	5	8	9
7	9	2	6	5	8	4	3	1
5	8	4	3	1	9	7	6	2
8	2	1	4	6	5	3	9	7
4	6	9	8	3	7	2	1	5
3	7	5	2	9	1	8	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RIGHT-HANDED CARS **Solution: 11 letters**

G	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	S	N	A	R	T	A	C
N	T	A	C	A	R	R	I	E	R	T	P	A	D	A
I	O	R	I	T	R	O	P	S	E	N	A	(L)	Z	N
R	Y	P	O	S	T	A	L	E	W	C	A	(A)	A	A
E	O	T	D	P	S	D	G	D	R	E	R	(U)	M	D
E	T	R	R	G	M	U	R	I	I	M	E	(D)	S	A
T	A	A	O	E	T	I	R	H	W	B	I	P	G	H
S	S	L	F	T	B	E	S	M	U	A	E	T	E	S
G	F	I	E	E	G	I	E	I	U	C	L	D	E	R
N	N	R	R	O	B	R	L	K	I	Z	G	L	S	O
A	S	I	M	U	C	T	H	A	O	E	U	K	S	R
T	F	I	S	E	O	E	L	O	S	R	C	S	O	R
S	N	T	D	S	A	T	U	R	N	U	E	O	I	I
U	I	E	W	E	A	E	V	I	R	D	D	H	A	M
M	S	H	I	F	T	N	Y	T	E	F	A	S	C	Y

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Yesterday's Answer: American

SALE! The books of Wonderword Kids! access to younger fans but the puzzle-solving masters will appreciate the challenge. Wonderwords, Thesaurus Rex, Sudoku Made Easy! Set. U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Uclick. Include Shipping & Handling: 1st book $3.50, each additional book $1.50. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Grand St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free 1-800-642-5420.

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• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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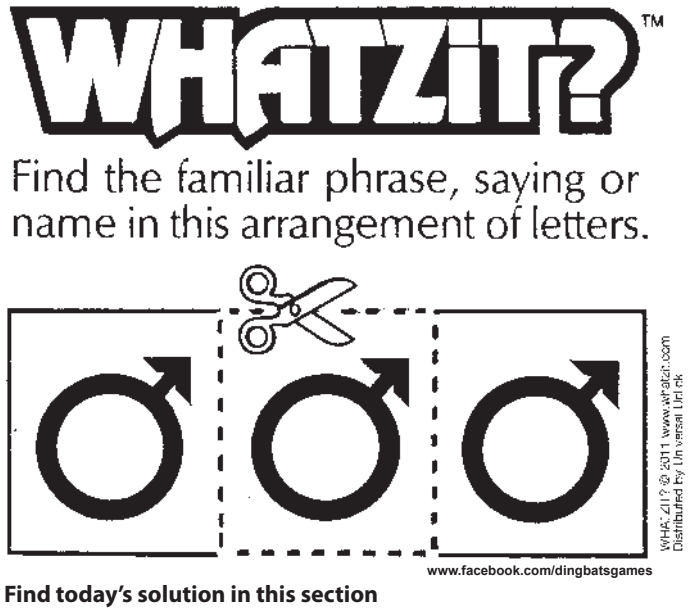
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

Durant, Thunder frustrate Heat, 96-85

MIAMI (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 29 points and Russell Westbrook added 18 as the Oklahoma City Thunder frustrated Miami's offense all night on the way to a 96-85 win over the Heat on Wednesday.

James Harden scored 12 points for the Thunder, who have won five straight games.

Chris Bosh had 21 points and 11 rebounds, Dwyane Wade scored 21 points and LeBron James finished with 19 for the Heat, who had won three straight and were averaging 114 points in their last two games.

It was the first time Durant beat a James-led team in seven career meetings.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder's James Harden (13) is congratulated by teammate Kevin Durant (35) after Harden scored against the Miami Heat in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

Celtics 92, Pacers 80

At Boston, Jeff Green scored 13 of his 19 points in the second quarter as Boston coasted past Indiana and moved back into a first-place tie in the Eastern Conference.

The victory left the Celtics and Chicago Bulls (48-18) with the same record in the race for home-court advantage through the conference finals. Boston had lost three of four to fall out of the top spot.

Josh McRoberts had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Indiana. Tyler Hansbrough, who had back-to-back career highs in a pair of victories against the New York Knicks this week, was 4 for 14, scoring 10 and grabbing 11 rebounds.

Magic 93, Bucks 89, OT

At Milwaukee, Dwight Howard had 31 points and 22 rebounds to lead Orlando to an overtime victory over Milwaukee that wrapped up a winning five-game road trip.

Hedo Turkoglu scored eight of his 19 points in overtime in a game that turned out to be far from easy for Orlando, even though the Bucks were missing center Andrew Bogut due to a migraine headache.

Howard equaled a career high with 24 attempts from the free throw line. He made only 13 of them.

Brandon Jennings scored 23 points and John Salmons scored 20 of his 22 in the second half and overtime.

Nuggets 102, Hawks 87

At Atlanta, Nene scored 20 points and J.R. Smith added all of his 15 in the fourth quarter as Denver ran away to beat Atlanta.

It looked as if the game would go down to the wire when Zaza Pachulia flipped in a putback, pulling the Hawks to 72-69 with just over 10 minutes remaining.

But Denver dominated the rest of the way, outscoring the home team 30-18. The Nuggets hardly missed in the fourth quarter, making 12 of 18 from the field—including four 3-pointers.

Hornets 100, Suns 95

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 26 points and nine assists as New Orleans extended Phoenix's losing streak to four.

Emeka Okafor had 16 points and 11 rebounds for New Orleans. David West added 16 points, including an 18-foot jumper to give the Hornets a 95-88 lead with 29.5 seconds to go.

Phoenix was as close as 93-88 when Grant Hill rolled in a 14-footer with 3 minutes left, but New Orleans did not allow another basket until 21 seconds remained, when Jared Dudley, who had 25 points, hit his fifth 3.

Rockets 94, Bobcats 78

At Houston, Kevin Martin scored 21 points and Chuck Hayes matched his season high with 17 rebounds as Houston never trailed in a victory over Charlotte.

Chase Budinger scored 19 and rookie Patrick Patterson added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets, who began the night in 11th place in the West, three games behind Memphis for the final playoff spot.

D.J. Augustin scored 22 and Boris Diaw added 13 for the Bobcats, who've lost nine of the last 11 meetings with Houston.

Mavericks 112, Warriors 106

At Oakland, California, Dirk Nowitzki had 34 points and 13 rebounds as Dallas rallied from 18 points down to beat Golden State.

Jason Terry scored 19 points and Rodrigue Beaubois had 18 to help the Mavericks score 15 consecutive points in the fourth quarter and pull away for the victory. Dallas (48-20) moved into a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for second place in the Western Conference.

Monta Ellis had 26 points and 11 assists, and David Lee scored 22 in another disappointing defeat for a Warriors team seemingly headed for the draft lottery.

Jazz 119, Timberwolves 104

At Salt Lake City, C.J. Miles scored a career-high 40 points and cemented his new starting role as Utah cruised past Minnesota, giving Ty Corbin his first back-to-back wins as coach.

Miles hit his first seven shots, including four from 3-point range, for 18 points in the opening quarter. His only miss came at the buzzer with a defender in his face.

Kevin Love led Minnesota with 22 points and 11 rebounds, but he got going too late to help the Timberwolves, who have dropped two straight.

Pistons 107, Raptors 93

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton scored 24 points, and Greg Monroe added 21 points and 10 rebounds as Detroit ended a three-game losing streak by beating Toronto.

Tayshaun Prince added 22 points for the Pistons and Rodney Stuckey, Detroit's leading scorer, had a career-high 14 assists while taking just one shot.

Andrea Bargnani led Toronto with 20 points, while Leandro Barbosa added 18 off the bench.

76ers 104, Clippers 94

At Los Angeles, Jodie Meeks scored 22 points and Jrue Holiday added nine of his 20 in the final 6 1/2 minutes, leading Philadelphia over Los Angeles.

Elton Brand had 19 points and 12 rebounds, helping the Sixers tie the idle New York Knicks for sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Cavaliers 97, Kings 93

At Sacramento, California, Ramon Sessions scored 20 points to lead Cleveland to a rare road victory.

Cleveland, which snapped a four-game losing streak overall, had dropped 28 of 29 road games since Nov. 10.

Marcus Thornton had 23 points for the Kings, who have lost seven of eight. Samuel Dalembert contributed 16 points and 10 rebounds, Francisco Garcia and Beno Udrih both scored 14 points, while rookie DeMarcus Cousins had 11 points and 16 rebounds.

Skeen, Rams advance with 59-46 win

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Not that Shaka Smart holds a grudge or anything.

But the first thing the Virginia Commonwealth coach did after his team's 59-46 NCAA "First Four " victory over Southern California on Wednesday night was to take a shot at those who questioned whether his team even belonged in the tournament.

"You guys think Jay Bilas watched that game?" he said about the ESPN analyst, one of many who didn't think the Rams were worthy of making the 68-team field.

On this night, they sure looked as if they could play with anyone.

Jamie Skeen scored 16 points and VCU more than held its own inside against the bigger and stronger Trojans.

"It feels really good because a lot of people were doubting us," Skeen said. "We were able to come out and prove some people wrong. Instead of just talking about it, we just came out here and played."

The 11th-seeded teams traded elbows and punishing defense all night, with the Rams (24-11) pulling away down the stretch to set up a game against sixth-seeded Georgetown (21-10) on Friday in Chicago.

Joey Rodriguez had eight points and five assists for VCU, but was one of many standouts for the Rams.

Even though the Trojans started two 6-foot-10 widebodies inside, the Rams held a 40-31 edge in rebounding.

"We really followed the game plan in terms of what we were trying to do to stop USC," said Smart, the second-youngest coach in the NCAA field at 33. "They obviously have a lot of weapons. Our guys did a really good job for 40 minutes on the defensive end. This is as good as we've played defensively. Early on offensively we were a little jittery. But our guys really settled down and we made more than enough shots as the game wore on."

Jio Fontan had 14 points and Nikola Vucevic 11 for USC (19-15), which had just one field goal over the final 9 minutes.

Vucevic, a first-team All-Pac-10 performer, had 14 rebounds and Alex Stepheson added 10. But the Rams had six players with at least three, led by Bradford Burgess with 10.

"They did a good job on defense," Vucevic said. "They had a guy on me the whole time. They took me out of the game."

After trailing by as many as five points in the first half, the Rams broke free in the second half with their 3-point shooting.

Skeen hit a 3 to open the second-half scoring and Rodriguez - scoreless to that point - hit two 3s for a 28-24 lead. After Maurice Jones countered by hitting USC's first 3 of the game, VCU's Brandon Rozzell hit another shot behind the arc on the left wing to push the lead to 34-27 at the 14:25 mark.

The Rams would never give up the lead.

USC pulled as close as 44-43, but then VCU pulled away again.

With the shot clock running down, Rodriguez passed up a shot and flipped the ball to Ed Nixon, who hit the 3 from the left wing—his only field goal of the game. The Rams then added two foul shots by Burgess and a shot off glass in traffic by Rodriguez for a 51-43 lead.

Fontan, the linchpin of the USC offense, then fouled out on a drive with 3:54 left, crippling the Trojans' attack.

The Rams padded their lead the rest of the way.

"They more than proved they belong in the NCAA tournament, and we just didn't play well," said USC coach Kevin O'Neill.

O'Neill had been suspended for the Trojans' last game, a 67-62 loss to Arizona in the semifinals of the Pac-10 tournament. O'Neill and his wife had gotten into a verbal confrontation with an Arizona booster at the team's hotel on Thursday night. USC athletic director Pat Haden suspended O'Neill and promised additional penalties.

But O'Neill was reinstated by Haden and the coach apologized to his team before the flight to Ohio. He then offered a public apology during the NCAA's mandated media interviews Tuesday.

After the game, it was almost as if the Rams expected an apology from the talking heads who doubted them.

"It didn't motivate us, seeing that (negative) stuff," Rodriguez said. "We respect those guys, we respect their opinion. But we knew we belonged here. We did a great job coming out here proving it. We're not done."

Texas-San Antonio 70, Alabama State 61

At Dayton, Ohio, Melvin Johnson III insists he's in a deep shooting slump.

Oh, really?

The smooth guard with "SWISH" scrawled on the side of each orange shoe scored a career-high 29 points Wednesday night, putting on the most scintillating show so far in the NCAA tournament while leading Texas-San Antonio to a 70-61 victory over Alabama State in the "First Four" round.

"It seems like the last four or five games, I can't make a shot," Johnson said. "I have 'SWISH' on the side of my shoes because I used to make shots. I might have to black it out for now."

No need to edit the footwear, not after that NCAA tournament debut.

The Roadrunners (20-13) and their smooth guard head to Cleveland for a game Friday against top-seeded Ohio State, which won't allow all those open shots.

"No. 31, if he's on like he was tonight, it should be a pretty good game," Alabama State's Jeff Middlebrooks said.

Against Alabama State (17-18), Johnson took advantage of every opening. The sophomore had a career high in the first half alone, when he outscored the star-struck Hornets 25-21.

NFL: Suspensions more likely for illegal hits

The NFL will be more aggressive in suspending players next season for illegal hits, and also could make changes to instant replay and kickoffs.

Ray Anderson, the league's chief disciplinarian, said Wednesday that repeat offenders or players committing flagrant illegal hits will have a much greater chance of being suspended during the 2011 season.

No suspensions were handed down in 2010 even after the NFL's crackdown on such hits, in part because "we were operating under the principle unless you have given sufficient advance notice of what the results could be, you need to be more lenient," Anderson said.

"Frankly, now that the notice has been given, players and coaches and clubs are very aware of what the emphasis is and we won't have that hesitation," Anderson said. "Everyone will be very clearly on notice now that a suspension is very viable for us and we will exercise it ... when it comes to illegal hits to the head and neck area and to defenseless players."

The NFL increased the amount on its fines for such hits last year after a series of fouls on one October weekend. Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison was fined $75,000 for one such tackle, while Atlanta Falcons cornerback Dunta Robinson and New England Patriots safety Brandon Meriweather were docked $50,000 for hits to defenseless opponents that weekend.

Many more fines were implemented throughout the remainder of last season but no player was suspended, even though suspensions were considered, Anderson said.

"We want to be much more clear on what can be a suspendable incident," Anderson said. "The emphasis is on head and neck hits and what a defenseless player is. And we will work hard that people understand what is a repeat offender and what is a flagrant foul."

The league looks at two years worth of plays to determined repeat offenders.

Rules defining a defenseless player will be expanded and now will include eight categories:

- A quarterback in the act of throwing;
- A receiver trying to catch a pass;
- A runner already in the grasp of tacklers and having his forward progress stopped;
- A player fielding a punt or a kickoff;
- A kicker or punter during the kick;
- A quarterback at any time after change of possession;
- A receiver who receives a blind-side block;
- A player already on the ground.

At next week's owners meetings in New Orleans, the competition committee will propose moving the kickoff up to the 35 yard-line, and bringing a touchback out to the 25. There would be no changes for touchbacks on any other plays, with the ball coming out to the 20.

No player other than the kicker would be allowed to line up more than 5 yards behind the ball, and the committee will suggest outlawing the wedge on kickoffs; all blocking wedges were reduced to two players in 2009.

"The injury rate on kickoffs remains a real concern for us and the players and the coaches' subcommittee," said Falcons president Rich McKay, the chairman of the competition committee. "This is a pretty major change."

So would be making all scoring plays reviewable, another proposal the committee will bring to the owners on Monday. This change would empower the replay official to order replays on any touchdowns, field goals, safeties and extra points without the coaches needing to challenge. It would be similar to the current system for the final two minutes of each half and for overtime. It also would mirror what colleges do on scoring plays for entire games.

Eliminating a third coach's challenge if he is successful on the first two also will be proposed; McKay said the third challenge rarely was used.

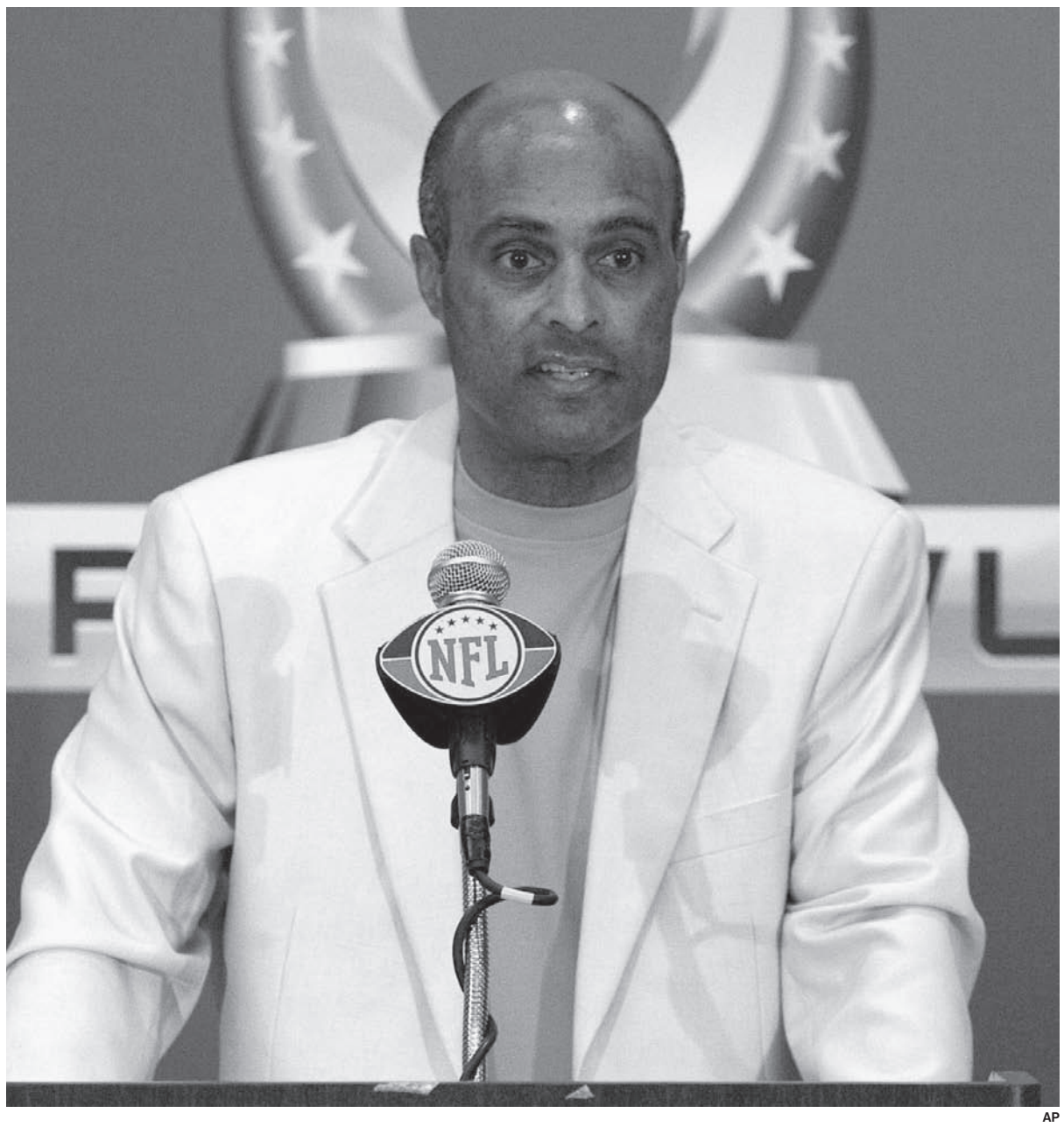
There will be no "Calvin Johnson rule" proposal on what is a catch. Johnson seemingly made a touchdown reception late in the Lions' season opener last September, but had it ruled incomplete because, with the ball still in his hand, it touched the ground as he raced off to celebrate. McKay's committee is only recommending a further clarification of the rules on such receptions.

"We confirmed a rule that has been there for more than 70 years which basically says there are three elements to a catch," McKay said. "Secure the ball in your hands; maintain control when have you two feet down or any body part other than the hands (are down); and we will write it into the rules that you must control the ball long enough after 'A' and 'B' (to) enable you to perform any act common to the game. That doesn't mean you have to perform the act, but must have the ability to.

"Would Calvin Johnson's be a catch under 2011 rules? Our answer would be no."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league plans to release the regular-season schedule in mid-April, despite the current work stoppage.

"A specific date is not set," Aiello said. "We plan to do what we normally do."



AP

This Jan. 25, 2011, file photo shows Ray Anderson, the NFL league's chief disciplinarian, addresses the media during a Pro Bowl NFL football news conference at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, in Honolulu.

Ochocinco to try out with Kansas City's MLS team

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Chad Ochocinco will try to play a different kind of football during the NFL lockout.

Never short on publicity-grabbing ideas, the Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver is set for a four-day tryout with Sporting Kansas City of Major League Soccer starting Tuesday.

The club said Wednesday that after the tryout, it would determine whether to extend the trial period.

"We're always searching for players who can help our team and bringing in new talent," Sporting Kansas City manager Peter Vermes said. "We know that Chad is an exceptional athlete and that he loves the sport of soccer, and he did play a lot when he was younger. We're excited to see how his skills will translate once he arrives next week and begins training with our team."

Ochocinco started playing soccer at age 4 but chose to focus on football in high school.

"Due to the NFL lockout, I'm excited to be able to follow my childhood dream of playing for a Major League Soccer team," Ochocinco said.

The reality TV star is friends with such big names in soccer as Thierry Henry, Cristiano Ronaldo and Ronaldinho. In January, Ochocinco visited Ronaldo, Kaka and the rest of Real Madrid's squad and was introduced to manager Jose Mourinho.

He has said he uses a soccer ball to warm up for NFL practices and games.

Sporting Kansas City, which changed its name from the Wizards in conjunction with moving into a new stadium, opens its MLS season Saturday. It narrowly missed the playoffs last year.

Ochocinco was also in the news for a very different reason Wednesday.

Hamilton County Municipal Judge Bernie Bouchard ordered him to pay Exclusive Wear $11,717 for clothing the Cincinnati store said the player never paid for.

Recordings of Bonds messages to mistress released

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Federal prosecutors on Wednesday released transcripts and recordings of voicemail messages Barry Bonds left for his former mistress during their nine-year relationship.

They don't portray Bonds in a flattering light.

Most of the messages show Bonds angrily inquiring after Kimberly Bell's whereabouts. Prosecutors say the recordings and transcripts are evidence of Bonds' steroid use because the drugs supposedly induce rage in some users.

Both sides on Wednesday also agreed on an 18-page questionnaire prospective jurors will be asked to fill out as Bonds' perjury trial gets underway Monday. The 63 questions will help lawyers and the judge seat an impartial jury. It asks them if they attended San Francisco Giants games in the last five years, if they've heard about athletes abusing steroids and whether they "blog" and how often they "use the Internet."

They also are asked: "Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Barry Bonds?"

While both sides have agreed to the wording of the questionnaire, they are sharply divided over whether the jury should hear the recordings Bonds left for Bell. Prosecutors want to play 11 of the voicemails for the panel.

Bell also is scheduled to testify that her relationship with Bonds was a stormy one marked by the slugger's increasing verbal abuse. She also will tell the jury of physical changes she witnessed Bonds go through, such as male pattern baldness that prosecutors attribute to steroid use.

Bonds' attorneys are seeking to exclude the recordings. They argue the material is irrelevant because there is no mention of performance-enhancing drug use.

"However lamentable the fact may be, the use of profane and angry language between paramours is an everyday occurrence," defense lawyer Dennis Riordan wrote in a filing with the court.

Riordan said he would argue for inclusion of all voicemails Bell recorded and kept. Riordan hinted that if the voicemails were allowed at trial the defense would argue that Bell's sexual history, rather than steroids, was "the cause of any emotionally fraught language on the recordings."

Prosecutors last week released transcripts of the 11 voicemails they hope to play for the jury and additional voicemails Wednesday "for the court's convenience in light of the briefing on this matter."

Prosecutors don't provide dates of the messages. Bonds and Bell dated from 1994 to 2003.

A few of the recordings showed a playful and caring Bonds calling Bell his "little spark plug" who brings "a lot of bright stuff to my life." He leaves several similar messages around a Valentine's Day.

"Hello? I'm working out right now, but I'm calling you to wish you a happy, happy, happy, happy Valentine's, 'cause you worth all that and all them wishes. Love to you baby, peace."

Another shows him complaining about his inability to drop by her apartment because his Porsche broke down and his wife and children need the other car, a Mercedes.

"Just chill and I'll catch up with you," he says.

But many others are darker and abusive. He calls her a "slut" in one, and uses more graphic language in others.

"You better reach out and page me once in a while or you're up to something other than that," he says in one of the few angry voicemails devoid of profanity. "Girl, I ain't playing."

Bonds also, at one point, admonishes Bell: "don't forget to erase your messages, later."

JONES

From Page 36

a double.

Then Villagomez took the mound for IT&E and struck out the side in the bottom frame.

The Ol'Aces came up empty, but forced IT&E to go 1-2-3 to start the second.

The Ol'Aces did not capitalize in the bottom frame and IT&E went ahead 3-0 in the top of the third off an RBI base rip by Celis; Celis later scored off an error before the Ol'Aces pulled off an inning-ending double play.

Then Ol'Aces quickly loaded the bases in the bottom frame, but Villagomez dug deep and sat down the fourth batter, while his teammates took his back with a double play that kept the shutout intact.

Then IT&E's Marvoin Ngeskebei led off the top of the fourth with a double, moved to third off an error, and stole home to put his team ahead, 4-0.

The Ol'Aces came up empty in the bottom frame and both teams went 1-2-3 in the fifth. The Ol'Aces held IT&E in the sixth and managed its sole run off an RBI base hit by Harry Nakamura in the bottom frame.

Both teams came up scoreless in the last inning.

MAJOR LEAGUE
JPO Enforcers 15, IP&E Strikers 2

JPO Enforcers took an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Shakobe Rangamar led off with a walk, moved to third base off passed balls and stole home; the other two runs came in off an error and a passed ball.

IP&E Strikers' Perry Celis followed suit with his rival Rangamar to get a run back for his team in the bottom frame.

Then after a scoreless second, the Enforcers pulled ahead 5-1 in the top of the third inning off an RBI triple by Cedric Camacho and an RBI base knock by Leo Williams.

IP&E's Celis poked a one-out single in the bottom frame and scored off errors for his team's final run of the game.

The Enforcers shot ahead, 11-2, in the top of the fourth off a two-RBI single by Ethan Lizama, an RBI base rip by Camacho, a two-RBI single by Saralu and an error.

The Enforcers then piled on four more runs in the fifth off errors and an RBI base hit by Saralu.

Winning pitcher Camacho went four and two-thirds innings and gave up one earned run off two hits and five walks with 12 strikeouts. He also batted 4-for-4 with two RBIs, three runs, and a stolen base. His teammate Henry Lizama batted 2-for-3 with four runs and a base on ball and Saralu closed the final out of the game and batted 2-for-4 with three RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base.

5 PROS

From Page 36

Gardner will have only Adam York to battle for the PIC Double crown, as Japanese Takahiro Ogasawara will miss tomorrow's race. Gardner and York will be joined by several Korean bikers.

Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica said despite the recent tragedy in Japan, Tagaman still drew a good number of participants, including 19 from the tsunami-torn country. Only six Japanese pulled out from the race. Korea will have a big delegate with more than 60. In the team event, 12 squad are entered, 11 from Saipan, and one from Japan.

Mojica is reminding drivers and pedestrians to take extra caution during the bike and run races on designated times and areas. A big group of bikers are expected at 6am in San Antonio, at 6:45am in Susupe, at 7:30am in San Roque, and at 8:30am in Garapan. The public is also requested to watch out for runners from AMP to Beach Road 8am onwards. The race will begin in the waters off the Pacific Islands at 6am.

MP

From Page 36

"We want to provide kids a venue to hone their soccer skills even though they don't have the financial means to do it," said Tahara, who two years ago welcomed an MPU U14 team in Japan to play in a couple of scrimmages.

Tahara and company started their trip on Saipan by joining MPU's U8 and J12 practices at the Navy Hill Field on Tuesday. On Wednesday, they visited schools and then checked on MPU boys U15 practice at the Navy Hill Field. Then yesterday, the Vivid Blue delegates went to MPU's U10, boys U18 and men's B team practices on Navy Hill and U12 and girls U15's training at the Garapan Elementary School. The visitors were also scheduled to watch the CNMI Women's Team' tryouts at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The visiting Japanese also met with local club officials and coaches yesterday and Lydia Tan presented Tahara and Yakubo official MP United jerseys as gifts from MP United's U12 team. The visitors wore the MP United uniforms when they joined the club's practice sessions yesterday.

MP United officials said they are happy that Tahara and company still continued their trip on Saipan to meet the club's players and coaches despite the recent tragedy that hit Japan. The club officials added their hopes and prayers are with Tahara's fellow Japanese. MP United also encouraged its members to support any activities that aim at helping tsunami and earthquake victims in Japan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	48	18	.727	—
New York	34	32	.515	14
Philadelphia	35	33	.515	14
New Jersey	22	43	.338	25 1/2
Toronto	18	49	.269	30 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	46	22	.676	—
x-Orlando	43	26	.623	3 1/2
Atlanta	39	29	.574	7
Charlotte	28	39	.418	17 1/2
Washington	16	50	.242	29

Central Division

y-Chicago	48	18	.727	—
Indiana	29	39	.426	20
Milwaukee	26	41	.388	22 1/2
Detroit	24	44	.353	25
Cleveland	13	53	.197	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	54	13	.806	—
Dallas	48	20	.706	6 1/2
New Orleans	40	30	.571	15 1/2
Memphis	37	31	.544	17 1/2
Houston	35	34	.507	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	44	23	.657	—
Denver	41	27	.603	3 1/2
Portland	38	29	.567	6
Utah	36	33	.522	9
Minnesota	17	52	.246	28

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	48	20	.706	—
Phoenix	33	33	.500	14
Golden State	30	38	.441	18
L.A. Clippers	26	43	.377	22 1/2
Sacramento	16	50	.242	31

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Denver 102, Atlanta 87
Boston 92, Indiana 80
Detroit 107, Toronto 93
Orlando 93, Milwaukee 89, OT
New Orleans 100, Phoenix 95
Oklahoma City 96, Miami 85
Houston 94, Charlotte 78
Utah 119, Minnesota 104
Cleveland 97, Sacramento 93
Dallas 112, Golden State 106
Philadelphia 104, L.A. Clippers 94

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	62	572	480	1739	28.0
Stoudemire, NYK	65	647	409	1713	26.4
James, MIA	65	601	419	1699	26.1
Wade, MIA	63	579	402	1612	25.6
Anthony, NYK	62	546	417	1569	25.3
Bryant, LAL	68	607	384	1689	24.8
Ellis, GOL	67	625	297	1657	24.7
Rose, CHI	65	577	348	1604	24.7
Nowitzki, DAL	58	485	314	1343	23.2
Howard, ORL	65	525	437	1487	22.9
Martin, HOU	66	439	486	1507	22.8
Aldridge, POR	67	591	313	1499	22.4
Griffin, LAC	68	569	374	1519	22.3
Westbrook, OKC	66	504	431	1464	22.2
Bargnani, TOR	58	474	247	1262	21.8
Williams, NJN	59	400	325	1224	20.7
Granger, IND	65	448	319	1344	20.7
Love, MIN	68	457	404	1405	20.7
Randolph, MEM	63	507	256	1277	20.3
Lopez, NJN	65	492	313	1297	20.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	342	543	.630
Howard, ORL	525	882	.595
A. Johnson, TOR	258	449	.575
Horford, ATL	429	759	.565
Ibaka, OKC	256	468	.547
Young, PHL	358	658	.544
Odom, LAL	389	723	.538
Humphries, NJN	260	487	.534
Nowitzki, DAL	485	916	.529
Millsap, UTA	427	808	.528

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	65	259	653	912	14.0
Randolph, MEM	63	290	513	803	12.7
Griffin, LAC	68	238	594	832	12.2
Gasol, LAL	68	225	469	694	10.2
Humphries, NJN	65	183	465	648	10.0
Horford, ATL	62	160	445	605	9.8
Okafor, NOR	59	177	392	569	9.6
Lee, GOL	58	168	384	552	9.5
Jefferson, UTA	68	192	452	644	9.5

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	54	634	11.7
Nash, PHX	61	693	11.4
Williams, NJN	59	599	10.2
Paul, NOR	67	652	9.7
Calderon, TOR	59	540	9.2
Felton, DEN	63	549	8.7
Wall, WAS	54	470	8.7
Westbrook, OKC	66	561	8.5
Kidd, DAL	67	562	8.4
Rose, CHI	65	516	7.9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fly High takes Rocball high school crown

Phat Boyz and Sakudi remain perfect; G-Ballers bounce back

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Phat Boyz's Kyle Kaipat batted 4-for-4 with a two-run homer and a grand slam for six RBIs in their 15-10 victory against V-Power in last Monday's Chamolinian slow-pitch softball league at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Phat Boyz defeated V-Power, 15-10, Sakudi laid down the lumber on T&C Clan, 20-0, in the women's pairing and G-Ballers rebounded from a recent loss to shoot down Berdax, 10-4, during last Monday's Chamolinian Softball Association 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball league matchups at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Phat Boyz has kept its perfect season intact so far after six games, while V-Power sits with a 4-3 record. V-Power has now suffered two losses in a row. Phat Boyz is tied in the men's division standings with defending champion Natibu (6-0).

G-Ballers evened out their card at 3-3, while Berdax's record fell to 2-3

Top-ranked Sakudi extended its undefeated streak to six in the women's division; T&C is still looking for first win after five games.

Phat Boyz 15, V-Power 10

Phat Boyz struck first with a two-run homer by Kyle Kaipat in the top of the second inning, but V-Power answered and went ahead, 3-2, in the bottom frame off a two-run shot by Fred Sato and a solo blast by Mel Sakisat.

Phat Boyz reclaimed the lead 5-3 in the top of the third off a two-run homer by Jun Kaipat and a sacrifice fly by Toi Celis.

V-Power went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame and Phat Boyz shot ahead, 15-4, in the top of the fourth inning.

Phat Boyz then went on to load the bases with a hit and a pair of walks that set up a grand slam by Kyle Kaipat.

V-Power left runners at second and third in the bottom frame, but kept Phat Boyz at bay defensively for the remainder of the contest.

V-Power managed four runs in the bottom of the fifth

Phat Boyz's Kye Kaipat batted 4-for-4 with six RBIs.

G-Ballers 10, Berdax 4

G-Ballers drew first blood in the bottom of the opening frame off a two-run homerun by Jun Salalila.

Berdax later tied the game at 2-all in the top of the third inning off errors, but G-Ballers shot ahead 9-2 in the bottom frame.

Rusty Santos led off with a solo homer, Salalila busted a two-RBI single five batters later, and Jude Dickinson stepped in next and delivered a three-run shot over the fence; the last run came in off an error.

Berdax managed a run in the top of the fifth off a solo blast by C.J. Atalig, but G-Ballers got it back later in the bottom of the sixth off a double by Gary Pangelinan and contained Berdax to just one run in the final frame.

Sakudi 20, T&C Clan 0

In the women's game, visiting Sakudi took an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning off an error, an RBI rip by Popo Tudela, and an RBI double by Lenise Kapileo.

T&C Clan went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame and Sakudi pulled ahead, 7-0, at the start of the second.

T&C came up empty again in the bottom half and Sakudi piled in six more runs in the top of the third inning.

T&C went three up and three down in the bottom frame and Sakudi trudged ahead, 20-0, in the top of the fourth. T&C retired the first two batters, but Sakudi ripped a seven-run tear off six hits, a walk and an error.

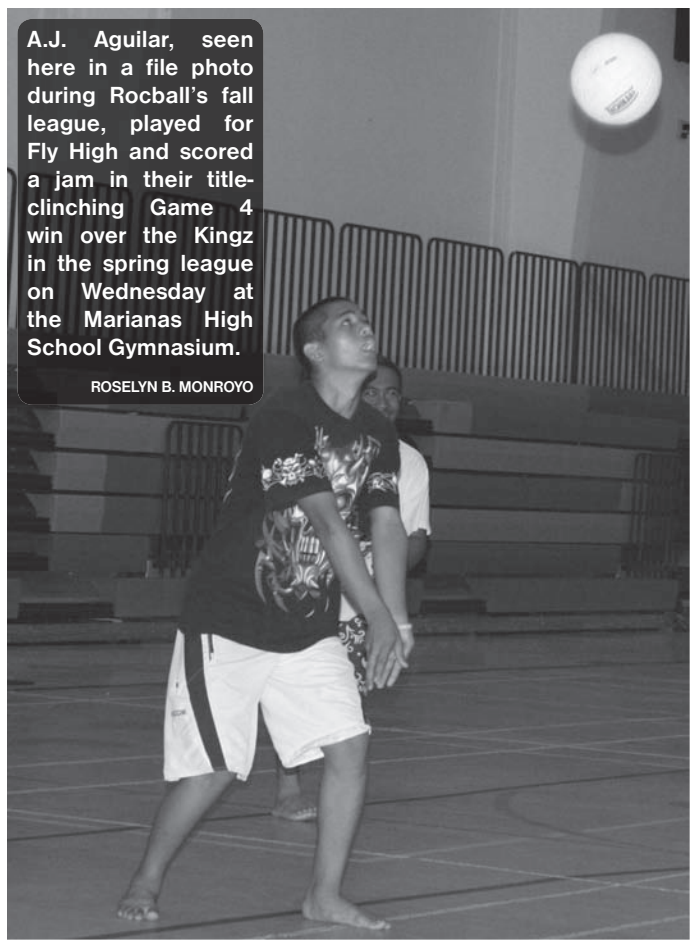
T&C left runners at first and second in its final stand; they were T&C's only base runners in the game. In addition, 13 of the 16 Sakudi players scored in the game and leadoff batter Camacho touched home three times.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fly High clinched the championship in the 2011 Rocball High School Spring League after beating the Kingz in their best-of-five title series, 3-1, on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Fly High wrapped up the championship series after prevailing in Game 4 in three sets. 46-31. In the opening set, Fly High pulled off a come-from-behind 15-14 victory and then followed it up with a 16-10 triumph in the second set behind the jam of A.J. Aguilar. The game and the series ended when Fly High soared to a convincing 15-7 win in the third set. Ten aces, one xunk, one jam, two kees, and two goals were scored in the last game with Fly High having the most edge in the aces category, 7-3.

The Kingz-Fly High finals series started last week with the latter drawing first blood after a 48-35 juiced-out win in Game 1. A juice-out victory is handed to a team that won the third set and had the lead in regulation.



A.J. Aguilar, seen here in a file photo during Rocball's fall league, played for Fly High and scored a jam in their title-clinching Game 4 win over the Kingz in the spring league on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In Game 2, Fly High survived the Kingz in overtime, 50-26. Fly High won the first two sets, 15-2, 15-9, but failed to nail another juiced-out win when the Kingz recovered in the third set, 15-13. In Rocball, if the team behind won the third set, the game goes in overtime where the squad to score a goal or seven points first (whichever comes first) prevails. Fly High went on to shut out the Kingz in o-kon, 7-0.

In Game 3, the Kingz recovered and drilled a 48-35 victory to extend the series. A 16-11 triumph in the opening set gave the Kingz momentum and it moved a set way from forcing Game 4 after a 15-12 win in the second set. The Kingz completed its own juiced-out win in Game 3 after a 17-12 victory in the third set and stayed in contention for the spring championship.

However that was only temporary, as Fly High fixed its broken wings and soared to a title-clinching win in Game 4. The Kingz won the fall season of the league against Yo Face and faltered in its bid for its second rocball high school crown.

The spring league drew six teams with the Chiefs, Krowners, Underdogs, and Watch Ur Face joining the two finalists. Fly High defeated the Krowners in the first semis series, while the Kingz prevailed over the Chiefs in the other semis pairing.

IT&E Voyagers, Fotten Palau lead divisions

Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers and USSP Peleliu Club's Fotten Palau currently lead their respective Agingan and Obyan divisions after the conclusion of last Tuesday's Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Open 8-Ball League matchups.

IT&E Voyagers paces its division with a 17-4 win-loss record, three games ahead of sister-team Home Boyz (14-7), while Utopia Bar's Docomo Hustlers (12-9) and Buddies' Bar & Grill's IT&E Incredibles (11-10) round out the rest of the Agingan division.

Despite suffering a 1-6 loss to IT&E Voyagers on the road, Fotten Palau still remains atop the Obyan division with a record of 12-9 record. Shark Attack out of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill (10-11) is ranked second, while D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Best Choice and VFW Post 3457's X-Team are tied for third place with identical 6-13 records; six teams make up the Obyan division.

Other matchup results include the Pirates of D'Pirates Bar & Grill knocking off X-Tream, 4-3, by taking the final doubles match via tiebreaker. The IT&E's Incredibles put down the Docomo Hustlers, 4-3, in a road game by taking all four singles matches, one via tiebreaker, while Shark Attack edged out Best Choice, 4-3, at home winning three singles via tiebreaker in addition to taking the final doubles match in three racks. Finally, the Home Boys shut out the Turtles, 7-0, on the road at USSP. ***(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)***

SGA donates $500 to MMAC golf tourney

Saipan Golfers Association donated $500 to the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer Golf Tournament which will be hosted by the Transportation Security Administration.

The tournament will take place on April 2, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Showtime is at 6:30am. Tournament fee is $100 and all funds raised will be donated to the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Representing SGA in the check presentation were president Mariano Fajardo, vice president Larry Deleon Guerrero, secretary Frances M. Sablan, and member Jung Eun Teack. Present in the event for TSA were Betty Kosam, Fausia Dela Cruz, Roman Borja, and Robert Travilla. Janine Nogis, Manny Borja, Meagan Cruz and Commonwealth Cancer Association program manager Tina Sablan represented MMAC, while present for Laolao Bay Golf Resort were Tony Satur and Tom McKenzie

"The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is extremely grateful to the SGA for their generous contribution in the fight against cancer. We are always looking for donors and the support we've received from the SGA is greatly appreciated," MMAC public relations chairman Christopher A. Concepcion said.

For more information on the 2011 MMAC, contact overall committee chairman Dave Guerrero at 989-2496 or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

For more information on the 2011 MMAC/TSA Golf Tournament, contact Fausia Dela Cruz at 285-4070 or Betty Kosam at 285-4071. ***(MMAC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Betty Kosam, Janine Nogis, Manny Borja, Fausia Dela Cruz, Robert Travilla, Meagan Cruz, Tony Satur, Tina Sablan, Mariano Fajardo, Roman Borja Tom McKenzie, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Jung Eun Teack, Frances M. Sablan, and Jordan Kosam pose for a group photo during the check presentation.

2011 XTERRA Saipan Bike and Run Legs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shonny Vanlandingham leads Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara in the climb to the foggy Mt. Tapochao during the bike leg of last Saturday's 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Tim Goodwin, left, and Heather Kennedy heads to the Lamar trail.

Renata Bucher's bike is covered with mud as she heads to another trail course.

John Jenkins pedals toward the re-routed Lamar trail.

Guam's Matthew Suess sips from his water bottle.

Saipan's Mieko Carey crosses the finish line.

Jackie Van Dam manages a smile despite crashing in the bike leg again this year.

Saipan's Lewie Tenorio celebrates his finish.

Derek Chambers, left, crosses the finish line with his son.

Joe Ngiraibuuch is close to completing the XTERRA Sports course.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jones two batters shy of perfect game

5 pros fight for PIC Double in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five female pros will gun for the PIC Double championship when the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon hits the road tomorrow morning.

The list includes Switzerland's Renata Bucher, Austria's Carina Wasle, U.S. pro Suzie Snyder, Saipan's Mieko Carey, and United Kingdom's Daz Parker.

Wasle timed in at 3:06:66 in last weekend's XTERRA Saipan Championship for a less than two-minute lead over Renata Bucher (3:08:10). Snyder logged 3:20:12, Carey had 3:30:37, and Parker clocked in at 3:38:33. The PIC Double winner is decided by combining triathletes' times in XTERRA and Tagaman with the champion getting return tickets and accommodation to Saipan.

Bucher won the PIC Double last year when she finished first in XTERRA and third in Tagaman. This year, she is expected to battle the coveted title against Wasle, as 2011 XTERRA champion and PIC Double runner-up Shonny Vanlandingham had already left for a race in the mainland. The Swiss topped Tagaman in 2009, before losing her crown to Korean national team member Dan Bi Hong last year.

Hong is back this year and is expected to give the five pros a run for their money in the 2-kilometer swim, 60-km bike, and 15-km run on-road race this weekend. Hong timed in at 3:20:47 last year to pull off an upset over Bucher and Vanlandingham. The Korean will be among the 93 triathletes who will do the individual race that will start at the Pacific Islands Club and end at the American Memorial Park.

In the men's division, defending Tagaman champion and 2010 PIC Double winner Sam Gardner of the United Kingdom is likely to score a repeat despite his bouts with food poisoning.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Renata Bucher, seen here running back to the shore, will defend her PIC Double title tomorrow during the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon.

Natibu Northern Stars pitcher Joshua Jones, seen here in a file photo, two-hit the JC Marketing-Toothworks Hunters in last Monday's Big League game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A side from a first inning walk and an infield error in the fourth, Natibu Northern Stars pitcher Joshua Jones sat down 17 batters in seven shutout innings en route to an 8-0 victory over JC Marketing-Toothworks Hunters in last Monday's Saipan Little League Big Division matchup at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Other recent winners include the Big League IT&E Fielders trumping the Docomo Ol'Aces, 4-1, last Tuesday, while in Major Division play at Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, JPO Enforcers routed the IP&E Strikers, 15-2, on Sunday.

BIG LEAGUE
Northern Stars 8, Hunters 0

After a scoreless first inning, Northern Stars broke out to a 7-0 lead in the top of the second off errors, RBI singles by Dave Jones, Joaquin Castro, and Joshua Jones, and Dodet Feliciano; Thomas Camacho belted an RBI double following Castro's at bat.

The Hunters then endured two 1-2-3 innings with five strikeouts, but pitcher Lincoln Ingram settled down on the mound and kept the Stars at bay offensively.

Still, Jones dismantled the Hunters at the plate, allowing only two base runners to reach first base, both of which would not touch second.

As the game winded down, the Hunters added a run in the top of the sixth inning off errors before Jones secured the shutout, fielding a leadoff grounder up the middle himself before ringing up his last two customers.

Jones forced five 1-2-3 innings and of those struck out the side three times. He struck out at least two batters in every frame and closed three of the other outs himself via groundouts forced to first base.

IT&E Fielders 4, Docomo Ol'Aces 1

IT&E Fielders broke the ice in the top of the first when Kevin Villagomez grounded home Jonathan Celis who led off with

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MP United tightens tie with Vivid Blue

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club and Japan-based club Vivid Blue strengthened their ties, as the visiting group met with the host's officials and joined MPU players in practices.

Vivid Blue president and founder Sachiko Tahara arrived on Saipan on Tuesday with D-licensed coach Kosuke Yakubo and a 7-year-old player for a four-day cultural and football exchange with MP United.

"It is great to be back and renewed our friendship with MP United. They are very hospitable and we hope to return the favor when they go visit us in Japan in the future. We met with the players and watched them play and we were impressed with their kills. With more training, they will keep getting better," Tahara said.

Tahara founded Vivid Blue in 2006 and the Numazu-based team in Sizuoka now has more than 100 players with 20 of them adults and the rest in the U7, U12, and U10 age groups.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Vivid Blue president Sachiko Tahara, standing second right, and D-licensed coach Kosuke Yakubo, standing third left, pose with MP United players and coach Dave Loan, standing right, during a break in the club's practice session at the Navy Hill Field.